

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 171
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Water
Topic: MONITOR AND ASSESS EXPENDITURE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

\$330 million was given to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission and the National Water Commission to 'drive reform in the Basin'. How much reform have they driven? How does your department measure 'reform' and what standards does it apply to such expenditures?

a. How are the ACCC relevant in this situation?

Answer:

For the reasons given in the answer to Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 Question on Notice 168, the Department does not monitor expenditure by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the National Water Commission.

Progress made by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the National Water Commission in driving reform in the Basin is described in publications of these agencies.

a. The ACCC provides advice to the Minister for the Environment and the MDBA on rules relating to water trading in the Murray–Darling Basin as prescribed in the Water Act to ensure a functioning water market. The ACCC also monitors compliance with and enforcing water market and water charge rules and determines and/or accredits regulated charges for irrigation operators.