

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

Question No: 180
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Water
Topic: SDL ADJUSTMENT SUPPLY MEASURES
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Given the uncertainty of supply measures in achieving environmental outcomes, how will the supply of these projects be assessed and monitored, environmental equivalence be demonstrated, and the taxpayer be certain that the expenditure is creating environmental benefit?

Answer:

The Basin Plan requires the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to determine that the supply contribution of notified measures result in equivalent environmental outcomes compared to the benchmark environmental outcomes.

The *Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin* sets out the processes by which Basin governments will develop, assess, agree and implement projects under the Sustainable Diversion Limit adjustment mechanism.

Chapter 7 of the Basin Plan specifies how the MDBA will assess and determine proposed SDL adjustments arising from supply measures.

The Basin Plan also provides for reconciliation of supply measure adjustments in 2024.