

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

Question No: 420
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: National Water Commission
Topic: WATER BLUEPRINT
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

I understand an audit of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan was originally due next year, but a bill before Federal Parliament would give the Productivity Commission until 2018. What are the implications of this delay for the MDB?

Answer:

The Commission is aware that the suite of Murray Darling Basin reforms currently underway, including implementation of the Basin Plan, remains a high priority for governments. The Commission also notes that the Bill includes a clause that provides for five-yearly audits of the Basin Plan but under the current wording of that clause the audit could be undertaken any time within the five year period. The timing of commencement of an audit of Basin Plan therefore remains a matter for government depending on the circumstances and in consultation with the basin jurisdictions.