

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 61

Topic: Murray Darling Basin Plan

Hansard Page: Written

Senator MCKENZIE asked:

61. Has the ACCC examined the draft Murray Darling Basin Plan for implications for their work?
- a. If so, what are they?

Answer:

61. The ACCC has a role under the *Water Act 2007* in advising the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on the development of water trading rules, which are a mandatory component of the Basin Plan. In this capacity, it provided advice to the MDBA on water trading rules in March 2010, and the MDBA has had regard to the advice in developing the proposed Basin Plan.

Under the *Water Act 2007*, the ACCC is also responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of the *Water Market Rules 2009*, *Water charge (Termination Fees) Rules 2009*, *Water Charge Infrastructure) Rules 2010* and the *Water Charge (Planning and Management Information Rules) 2010*. The ACCC does not have a role in monitoring or enforcing the water trading rules.

In advising the MDBA, the ACCC sought to ensure that its advice on the water trading rules was consistent with the water charge rules and water market rules.

The ACCC considers that the proposed Basin Plan is consistent with the ongoing performance of its roles under the *Water Act 2007* and is unlikely to directly affect its work of monitoring and enforcing the water market rules and the water charge rules.