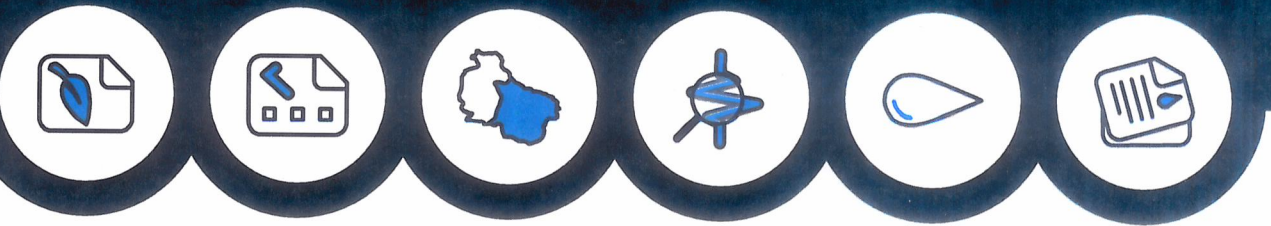


Assessment

The MDBA assessed progress of **six key elements** of Basin Plan implementation. Some elements are on track, some need additional resourcing and immediate actions, and others are at risk of delay. These elements are interconnected and the Basin Plan needs all to progress in order to set the groundwork for a healthy and sustainable Basin.



Water resource plans

Status: As anticipated, water resource plans were not completed by the original June 2019 deadline. Continued effort and commitment is needed to deliver these plans.



Water recovery

Status: Bridging the gap - Water recovery is close to completion, although some targeted local recovery still needs to be completed.



Compliance

Status: Governments continue to deliver against the Compliance Compact—additional resourcing and monitoring will strengthen compliance with water management rules across the Basin.



Northern Basin initiatives

Status: Some initiatives are progressing, others need fast-tracking and continued liaison with communities. Reforms to protect low flows and water for the environment need to be fully implemented.



Sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism

Supply and constraints projects
Status: Basin state governments are progressing some projects, others are developing slowly and need fast-tracking to achieve completion by the 2024 deadline.



Environmental water delivery

Status: In drought, this water is working to protect habitats, but like all entitlement holders there is limited water available for use. Challenges with the delivery of water for the environment in the past year are concerning.

Efficiency measures

Status: The required 62 GL/y of efficiency measures has not been recovered, and the SDL will adjust from 605 GL/y to 544 GL/y for 2019–20.

Assessment

The MDBA assessed progress of six key elements of Basin Plan implementation. Some elements are on track, some need additional resourcing and immediate actions, and others are at risk of delay. These elements are interconnected, and the Basin Plan needs all to progress in order to set the groundwork for a healthy and sustainable Basin.



Water resource plans

Status: All plans from Queensland and South Australia are accredited. Plans from Victoria and ACT are well progressed, and should be assessed and accredited within the extended timeframe.



Water resource plans (NSW)

Status: NSW has 20 plans to submit before the end of the year. Quality plans will need to be submitted for assessment and accreditation before the next wateryear begins.



Water recovery

Status: Bridging the gap - Water recovery is very close to completion. Targeted local recovery needs to be fast-tracked to provide communities with certainty and conclude the program.



Compliance

Status: There is generally good progress against the compact commitments. All governments need to complete policies and frameworks, make them publicly available and deliver improved metering and measurement.



Sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism

Supply and constraints projects
Status: Complex projects are progressing very slowly and are at risk. Without implementation of these projects by 2024, more water will need to be recovered for the environment.



Planning and delivery of environmental water

Status: Water for the environment is critical during the drought, and the small amount of allocated water has been used strategically to improve river health for everyone.



Northern Basin initiatives

Status: Project progress at various stages, including new measures to coordinate and protect water for the environment and measures to protect native fish.

Efficiency measures

Status: The government has launched a new efficiency program, but of the 62 GL initially required under the adjustment only 1.3 GL has been recovered.