

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

### Statement of the lawfulness of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The final report of the South Australian Royal Commission into the Murray-Darling Basin was released at the end of January 2019. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources would like to address the claims made in the report about the lawfulness of the Basin Plan.

The Australian Government has considered these claims, and remains satisfied that the Basin Plan is lawful, and that the Basin Plan was developed consistently with the requirements of the Water Act.

The Commonwealth's position on some of the matters raised about the lawfulness of the Basin Plan remain as articulated in the publicly available letter of 2 July 2018 from the Hon. David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to the Hon. David Spiers MP, South Australian Minister for Environment and Water on the relevant issues paper the Royal Commission released on these matters.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources also reiterated its views in this respect in its submission to the Royal Commission in October 2018.