



THE SENATE

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 [Provisions]**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Tuesday 31 October 2023**

**Committee Room 2S3**  
**Parliament House, Canberra**

Time	Witness
9.00 am	<b>Commissioner for Murray River (SA)</b> ( <i>Submission 16</i> ) Mr Richard Beasley SC, Commissioner for Murray River (SA)
9.45 am	<b>National Irrigators' Council</b> ( <i>Submission 65</i> ) Mr Jeremy Morton, Chair (via videoconference) Ms Zara Lowien, Interim Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference)  <b>NSW Irrigators' Council</b> ( <i>Submission 96</i> ) Mr Ian James (Jim) Cush, Chair Ms Claire Miller, Chief Executive Officer Ms Christine Freak, Policy Manager  <b>South Australian Murray Irrigators</b> Ms Caren Martin, Chairperson (via videoconference) Ms Rosalie Auricht, Member (via videoconference)
10.30 am	<b>NSW Aboriginal Land Council</b> ( <i>Submission 64</i> ) Mr Yuseph Deen, Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference)  <b>Professor Leslie (Phil) Duncan, Member, Basin Community Committee</b> (via videoconference)  <b>Mr Frederick Arnold Hooper, Chairperson, Murrawarri Peoples Council of the Murrawarri Nation</b> (via videoconference)
11.15 am	<b>Break</b>
11.30 am	<b>Inspector-General of Water Compliance</b> ( <i>Submission 32</i> ) The Hon Troy Grant, Inspector-General (via videoconference) Mr Daniel Blacker, Deputy Inspector-General
12.10 pm	<b>Biodiversity Council</b> ( <i>Submission 56</i> ) Professor Ross Thompson, Councillor (via videoconference)  <b>The Wilderness Society</b> ( <i>Submission 39</i> ) Mr Peter Owen, Director (via videoconference)
1.00 pm	<b>Basin Community Committee</b> Ms Rachel Kelly, Chair (via videoconference)

Committee Chair: Senator Karen Grogan

Committee Secretary: Stephen Palethorpe

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<b>1.40 pm</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2.10 pm	<b>Environmental Justice Australia</b> ( <i>Submission 53</i> ) Dr Bruce Lindsay, Senior Specialist Lawyer Ms Natalie Hogan, Lawyer
2.55 pm	<b>Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists</b> ( <i>Submission 57</i> ) Dr Celine Steinfeld, Director Professor Jamie Pittock, Member Professor Richard Kingsford, Member (via videoconference) Associate Professor Brad Moggridge, Member Mr Michael Vanderzee, Water Policy Analyst
3.30 pm	<b>Professor Quentin Grafton, private capacity</b>  <b>Professor Sarah Wheeler, private capacity (via videoconference)</b>
<b>4.05 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
4.20 pm	<b>ACT Government</b> ( <i>Submission 71</i> ) Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reductions Ms Fiona Wright, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction Mr Ryan Breen, Director, Water Policy, Intergovernmental and Governance, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
4.50 pm	<b>South Australian Department of Environment and Water</b> ( <i>Submission 70</i> ) Mr Ben Bruce, Acting Chief Executive (via videoconference) Mr Dan Jordan, Director, Water Security, Policy and Planning (via videoconference)
5.20 pm	<b>National Farmers' Federation</b> ( <i>Submission 29</i> ) Mr Warwick Ragg, General Manager, Natural Resource Management (via videoconference) Ms Linda Christesen, Water Policy Manager, Rice Growers Association of Australia Mr Malcolm Holm, Water Committee Chair Professor Simon Maddocks, Chair, Primary Producers South Australia (via videoconference) Mr Michael Murray, General Manager, Cotton Australia Limited (via videoconference)
6.00 pm	<b>Charles Sturt University</b> Professor Lee Baumgartner  <b>One Basin CRC</b> Professor Michael Stewardson, Chief Executive Officer
<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
6.40 pm	<b>Country Mayors Association of NSW</b> ( <i>Submission 75</i> ) Mayor Jamie Chaffey, Chairperson  <b>Balonne Shire Council</b> ( <i>Submission 18</i> ) Councillor Samantha O'Toole, Mayor Mr Matthew Magin, Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference)  <b>Murray River Group of Councils</b> Councillor Rob Amos, Chair Councillor Adrian Weston, Mayor, Campaspe Shire Council

7.20 pm	<p><b>Australian Water Brokers Association</b> (<i>Submission 59</i>) Mr Craig Feuerherdt, Vice President (via videoconference) Mr Andrew Martin, President (via videoconference) Mr Paul Cooper, Secretary (via videoconference)</p> <p><b>Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative</b> (<i>Submission 69</i>) Mr Julian Speed, Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference) Ms Jenny McLeod, Policy and Communication Manager (via videoconference)</p> <p><b>Central Irrigation Trust</b> (<i>Submission 41</i>) Mr Greg McCarron, Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference)</p> <p><b>Murray Irrigation Limited</b> (<i>Submission 46</i>) Mr Ron McCalman, Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference) Ms Gabrielle Cusack, General Manager, Government Liaison and External Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p><b>Murrumbidgee Irrigation</b> (<i>Submission 80</i>) Mr Brett Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director (via videoconference)</p>
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