

**Senate Environment and Communications Committee
National Water Commission (Abolition) Bill 2014
Public hearings 4 November 2014**

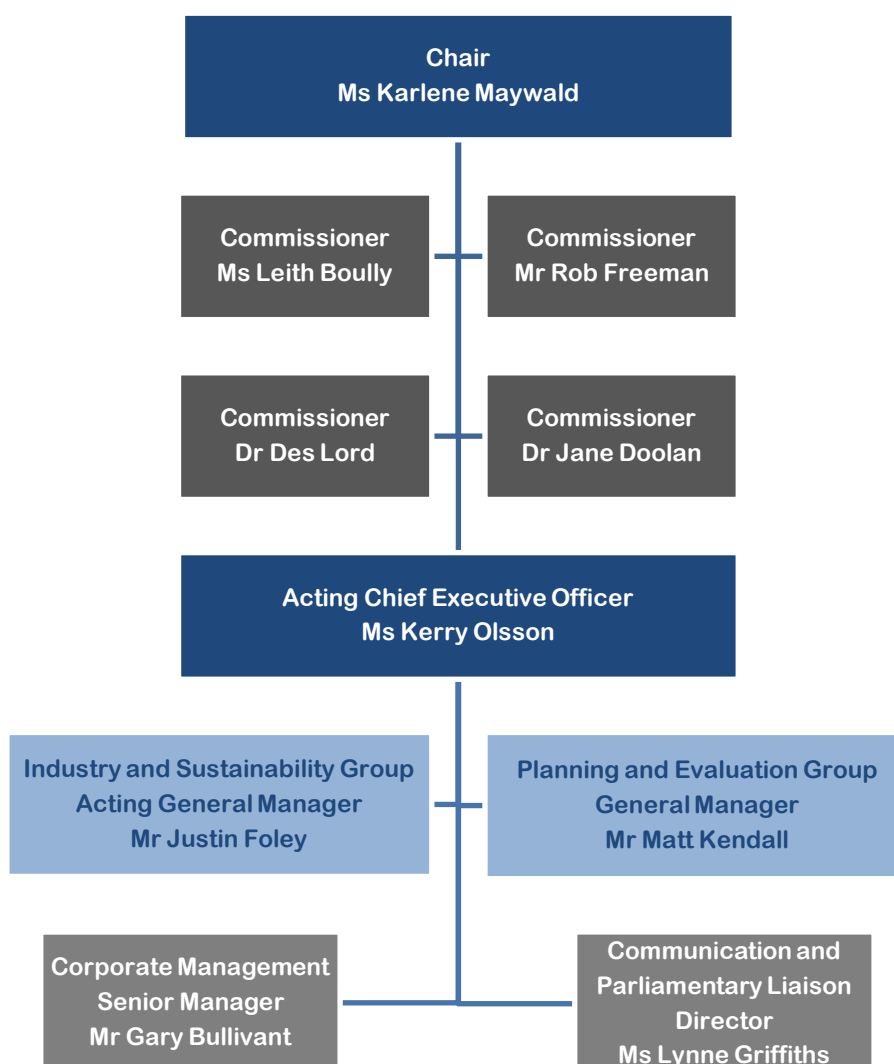
Question on notice: Senator Urquhart asked:

1. Can you provide an organisational chart of the National Water Commission before the May 2014 budget, including team structure, role titles and the major responsibilities or projects of each role?
2. Have you done any work internally to decide which work can be undertaken by the NWC for the rest of the financial year, given your limited budget? Can you provide a list of priorities for the NWC and work that you may undertake if able?

Response:

1. An organisational chart and functional descriptions are included below. More information is available in the *National Water Commission Annual Report 2013-14* which is available on the Commission’s website www.nwc.gov.au.

Organisation chart



Operational groups and teams

Executive

The Executive supported the Commissioners in the development and delivery of the Commission's work program and priorities. The CEO is responsible for the management of the Commission and reports to the Parliamentary Secretary. The Executive team also provides secretariat support to the Commission.

Planning and Evaluation Group

This group led analysis and reporting on water planning; monitoring and evaluation; Indigenous water issues; Northern Australia; and water accounting. The group was also responsible for managing the delivery of the 2014 assessment of water reform progress.

Work program:

- *2014 Triennial assessment* – this report provides an independent, evidence-based assessment of whether the water reforms articulated in the NWI, including subsequent COAG reforms, are achieving their intended outcomes. Published 20 October 2014.
- *National water planning report card 2013* - the report card is the second in the series initiated by the Council of Australian Governments' Water Reform Committee in 2010; this second iteration of the report card presents a consolidated summary of the status of water planning as at 31 December 2013 with information on 174 planning areas across Australia. Published 7 July 2014.
- *National Partnership Agreement Murray-Darling Basin 2013* – this report provides an assessment of jurisdictional performance against milestones in the National Partnership agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin. Published 11 June 2014 (2014 report completed November 2014 and is awaiting publication).
- *A review of Indigenous involvement in water planning, 2013* – the review report was undertaken to assess the effectiveness of jurisdictional water planning and management arrangements in meeting indigenous needs and access to water. Published 22 May 2014.
- *National performance report 2012-2013: urban water utilities* – this report provides a national 'report card' benchmarking the performance of urban water delivery agencies for the 8th consecutive year. Published 24 April 2014.
- *National performance report 2012-2013: rural water utilities* – this report provides a national 'report card' benchmarking the performance of rural water delivery agencies for the 7th consecutive year. Published 2 April 2014.
- *Monitoring and evaluation for adaptive water management* - this discussion paper assesses the current monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement arrangements for water plans across all jurisdictions in Australia, including in the Murray–Darling Basin. Published 19 November 2013.

- *Water management and pathways to sustainable levels of extraction: issues paper* - this report examines extraction limits in systems at varying levels of development, describes different approaches for improving the sustainability of water management, and investigates factors that affect the likelihood of success. Published 19 November 2013.

Industry and Sustainability Group

This group leads analysis and reporting on urban water, rural water use, water access entitlements, groundwater, markets and trading, structural adjustment, water interception and environmental water.

Work program:

- *Urban water futures 2014* – this report provides an updated overview of the urban water reform context and assesses the current performance of the urban water sector across Australia. The report reflects views across the sector on current and emerging urban water challenges drawing on the results of a broad process of stakeholder engagement. Published 14 October 2014.
- *Australian Environmental Water Management: 2014 Review* – this report assesses on-going performance in achieving the National Water Initiative's integrated environmental water management outcomes. It is the third report in a series and assesses progress made by each jurisdiction since the previous review was completed in 2012. Published 13 August 2014.
- *Australian water markets: trends and drivers 2007-08 to 2012-13* – this report documents the main trends and drivers across the water market since 2007–08 and is a companion document to the *Australian water markets report 2012–13*, it concentrates on the water market in the Murray–Darling Basin which represents 94% of the Australian water market. Published 26 May 2014.
- *Integrating groundwater and surface water management in Australia* - this report looks at progress to date and outlines further opportunities for governments to optimise the benefits of integrated management and potentially achieve multiple water management objectives. Published 3 April 2014.
- *Annual markets report 2012-13* – this report is the sixth annual statement of water trading activity across Australia; first produced for the 2007–08 water year, the report informs market participants about market structure, trading activity, prices and policy decisions influencing market performance. Published 23 December 2013.
- *Current issues influencing Australian water markets* – this report supplements the Commission's annual Australian water markets report by examining in more depth those issues that influence water markets and water market behaviour now and in the future. Published 2 December 2013.

- *Urban water futures discussion paper* – this paper was released as part of the Commission’s engagement with stakeholders to encourage discussion and seek submission on the progress of urban water reform as part of the evidence gathering process for the 2014 triennial assessment. Published 28 October 2013.

Corporate Management

Our Corporate Management team was responsible for providing strategic business advice and operational support across a range of services, including budget, finance governance, human resources, information technology and property.

Communication and Parliamentary Liaison

This team provided strategic communication advice and managed our media activities, public affairs, web presence and publications. It also coordinated stakeholder engagement activities and ministerial and parliamentary services.

Staffing by group and classification

(41 staff comprised 35 ASL, as several staff worked on a part-time basis)

Classification	Executive	Planning and Evaluation	Industry and Sustainability	Corporate Management	Communication and Parliamentary Liaison	Total
CEO	1	-	-	-	-	1
SES Band 1	-	1	1	-	-	2
Executive Level 2	-	2	1	1	1	5
Executive Level 1	-	6	6	2	2	16
APS6	1	5	3	2	1	12
APS5	-	-	2	-	-	2
APS4	-	1	1	1	-	3
Total	2	15	14	6	4	41

2. The Commission has undertaken initial work to determine priority areas for action if it continued beyond 31 December 2014. Funds would be available within the current appropriation to support a limited work program for the remainder of the financial year. Areas which have been identified as priorities if circumstances allowed include more detailed analysis on urban regulatory reform principles, applying the National Water Initiative principles to new developments, the integration of water quality and quantity agendas, water markets in small catchments, and the adequacy of drought preparedness. Not all areas would be able to be addressed with the available resources and further refinement of the work program would be undertaken if the Commission continued.