

# List of recommendations

## Recommendation 1

**6.32** The committee recommends that the Australian Government support the recommendation of the Productivity Commission to separate the Murray Darling Basin Authority into two entities: the Murray-Darling Basin Corporation, and the Basin Plan Regulator, with the Regulator established as a new statutory independent authority.

## Recommendation 2

**6.33** The committee recommends that the Australian Government ensure sufficient funding and resources are allocated to the Basin Plan Regulator, once established, to ensure that it is adequately resourced to undertake effective compliance, evaluation and review functions.

## Recommendation 3

**6.34** The committee recommends that the Australian Government consider hypothecating any pecuniary penalties paid to the Basin Plan Regulator, back to the Regulator. This would assist with the ongoing viability of the Regulator's compliance and enforcement roles.

## Recommendation 4

**6.54** The committee recommends that the Murray Darling Basin Authority allocate sufficient resources to complete its assessment and evaluation of Water Resource Plans.

## Recommendation 5

**6.65** The committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources present detailed annual reporting on the allocation of funds from the Water for the Environment Special Account, in accordance with the requirements of the *Water Act 2007*.

## **Recommendation 6**

**6.73** The committee recommends the development of a uniform schedule of evidentiary requirements, penalties and sanctions be developed to apply to breaches of water legislation in Murray Darling Basin jurisdictions. The schedule should be presented to the Council for Australian Governments for endorsement. The schedule should consider:

- the appropriate burden of evidence for water breaches;
- the use of technology in determining breaches;
- the suitability of strict liability offences; and
- the simplification of offences.