

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 179
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Water
Topic: SDL ADJUSTMENT SUPPLY MEASURES
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Given the uncertainties noted in the independent review of the environmental elements methodology as to the performance of supply measures, why has the Commonwealth committed \$1.3 billion to works and measures through the Inter Government Agreements with the Basin states?

Answer:

As described in the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin* (the IGA) the Commonwealth has agreed to provide financial support for implementing supply measures agreed by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and determined through the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) adjustment provisions in Chapter 7 of the Basin Plan.

Commonwealth supply measures funding will not be made available for project implementation until the SDL adjustment has been made to the Basin Plan and tabled in the Parliament, which will not occur until after 30 June 2016.

In regards to the methodology, the MDBA are working with CSIRO and the Independent Review Panel to resolve any matters of uncertainty prior to implementation of the adjustment mechanism.