

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**PM&C Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian National Audit Office  
**Outcome/Program:** 1 Assurance Audit Services  
**Topic:** Commonwealth state bodies audited by the ANAO

**Senator:** Fifield

**Question reference number:** PM 109

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA, p 37

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 8 July

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

What about a body like the Murray-Darling Basin Commission or whatever it is called today?

**Answer:**

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission was a joint venture between the Commonwealth and five State and Territory Governments that was wound up in December 2008. The financial statements of the commission were audited by the ANAO by agreement under s.20 of the Auditor-General Act.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is a Commonwealth body created in December 2008. It has assumed the majority of the responsibilities of the previous commission. There are two joint ventures that hold the shared assets of the States and the Commonwealth. These are the Living Murray Initiative Joint Venture (water entitlements) and the River Murray Operations Joint Venture (infrastructure). The ANAO audits the financial statement of these joint ventures under s.20 of the Auditor-General Act at the request of the MDBA CEO.