

THE SENATE

RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Senator the Hon John Hogg President of the Senate Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Inquiry into the implications for the long-term sustainable management of the Murray-Darling Basin system

Interim Report

Pursuant to standing order 38(7), I present an interim report of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee's inquiry into the implications for the long-term sustainable management of the Murray-Darling Basin system.

The Senate referred this inquiry to the Committee on 27 August 2008, for report on 4 December 2008. The Senate extended the reporting date to 22 May 2009.

The inquiry was advertised in *The Australian* newspaper on 10 and 24 September, 8 and 22 October and 5 November 2008, and on the internet.

The committee received 19 submissions to this inquiry. The committee held public hearings in Canberra on 10, 13 and 16 March 2009.

To ensure that the issues raised during the inquiry are thoroughly considered and appropriately addressed, the committee will present its final report on 25 June 2009.

Senator Fiona Nash Chair

22 May 2009