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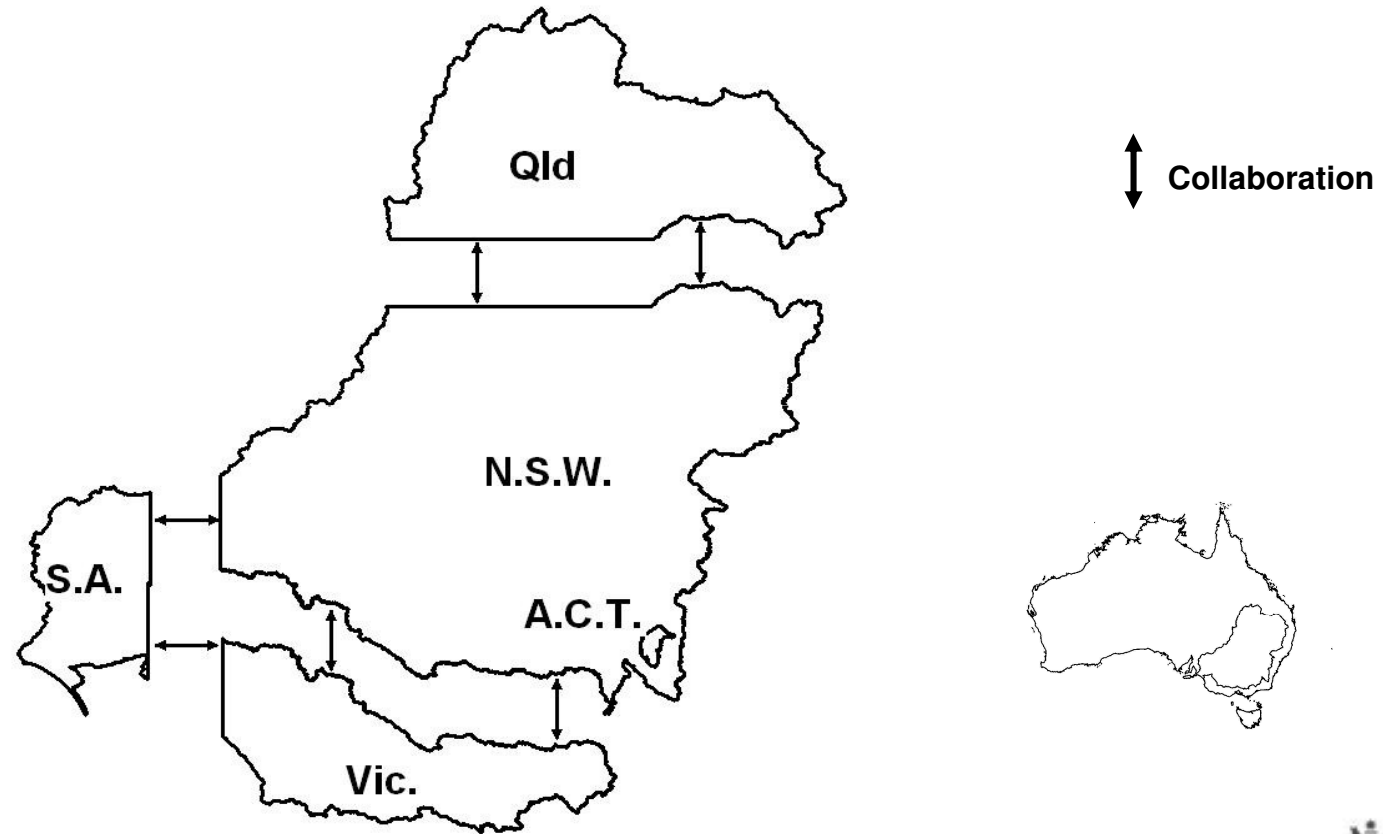


The Water Act 2007

Basin Plan Overview

Brent Williams

Historical Perspective



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MURRAY-DARLING
BASIN AUTHORITY

New Perspective



“to enable the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the Basin States, to manage the Basin water resources in the national interest” – 3(a) Water Act 2007



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Water Act 2007

- enable Commonwealth in conjunction with States to manage Basin's water resources in the national interest
- in giving effect to international agreements, optimise economic, social and environmental outcomes
 - Ramsar Convention
 - Biodiversity Convention
 - CAMBA, JAMBA, ROKAMBA etc

(after Water Act 2007)



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Water Act 2007

- ensure environmental sustainability and in this context, maximise net economic returns to the Australian community
- improve water security for all uses of Basin's water resources

(after Water Act 2007)



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The Murray-Darling Basin Authority

- Statutory Agency under the *Water Act 2007*
- Chair, Chief Executive, four members
- Expertise based
 - Water resource management
 - Hydrology
 - Freshwater ecology
 - Resource economics
 - Irrigated agriculture
 - Public sector governance
 - Financial management



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The Murray-Darling Basin Authority

- Role
 - Preparing the Basin Plan
 - Advise on/accrediting of state water resource plans
 - Water rights information service
 - Measure and monitor water resources
 - Engaging the community
 - Former Murray-Darling Basin Commission responsibilities



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Basin Plan

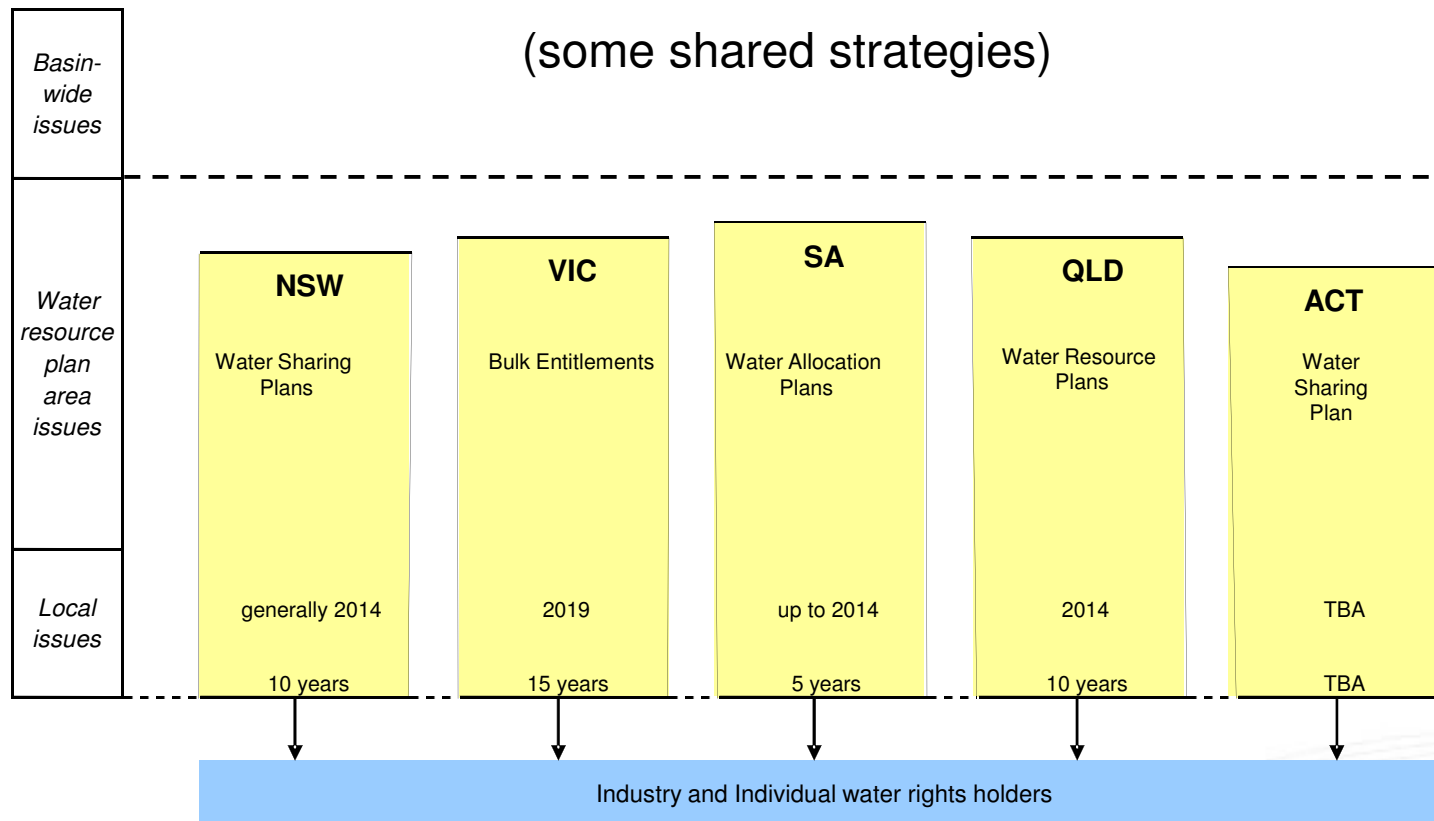
- integrated and sustainable
- legislative instrument
- Commonwealth Minister decision
- Ministerial Council advice



Water Resource Planning

BEFORE
THE BASIN PLAN IS MADE

(some shared strategies)



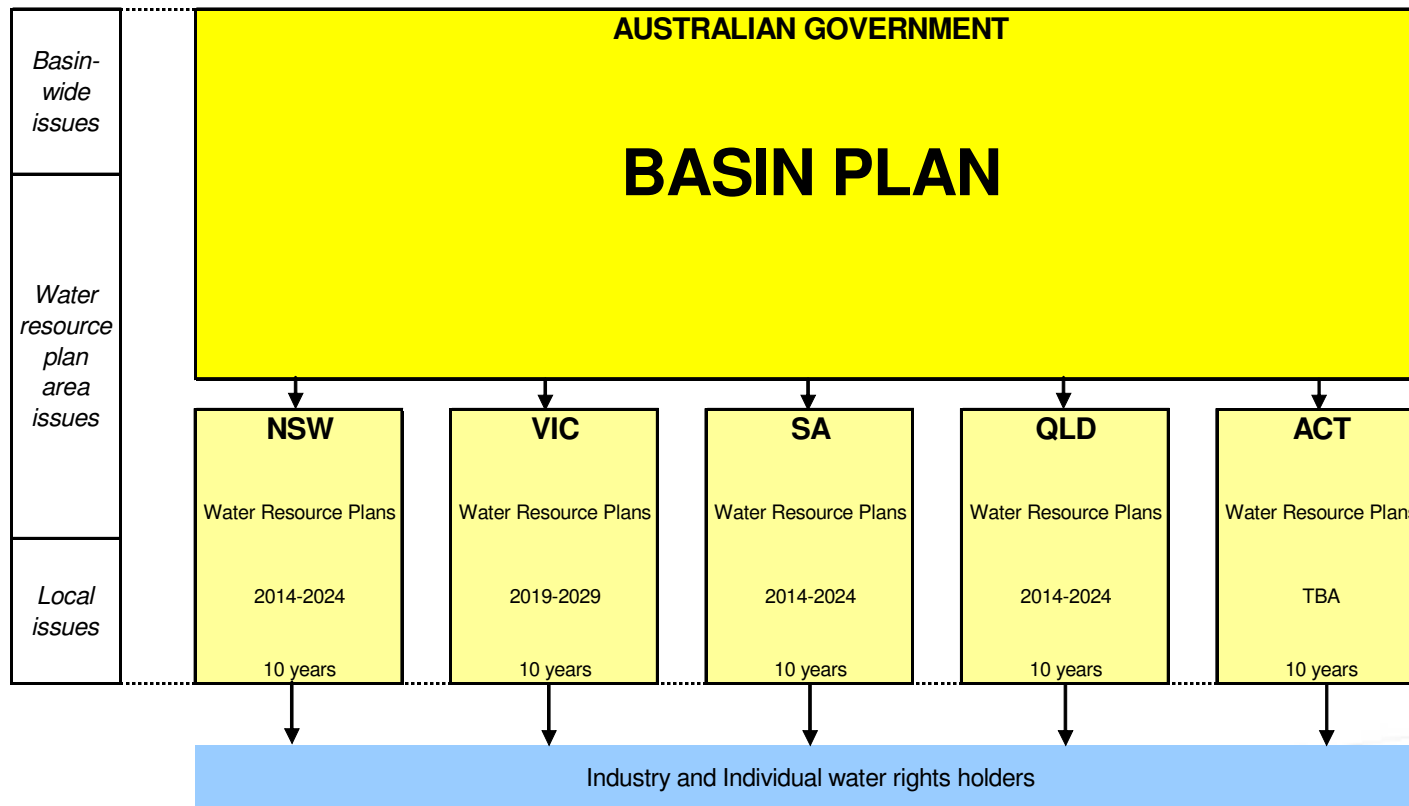
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Post Basin Plan

AFTER

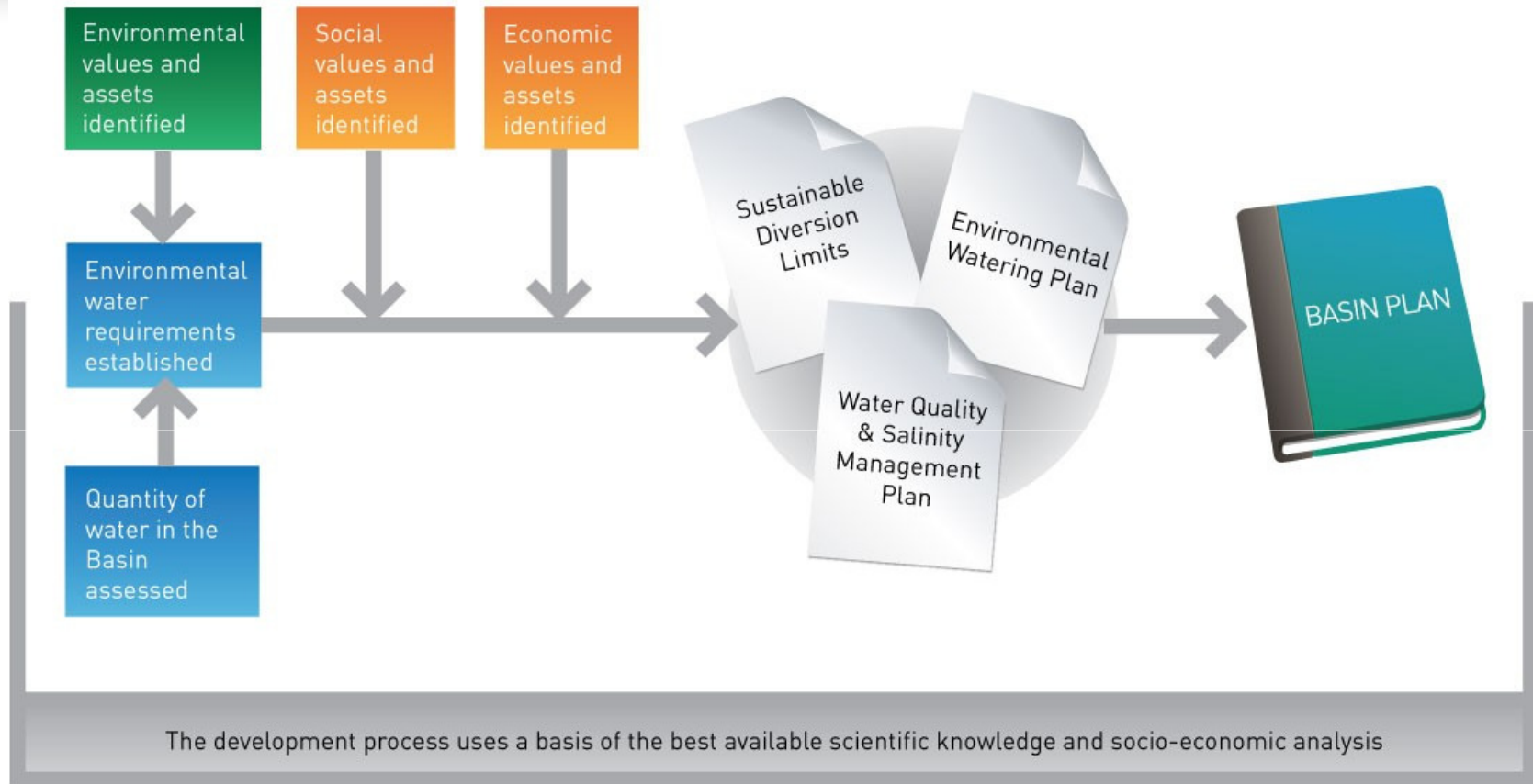
THE BASIN PLAN IS MADE



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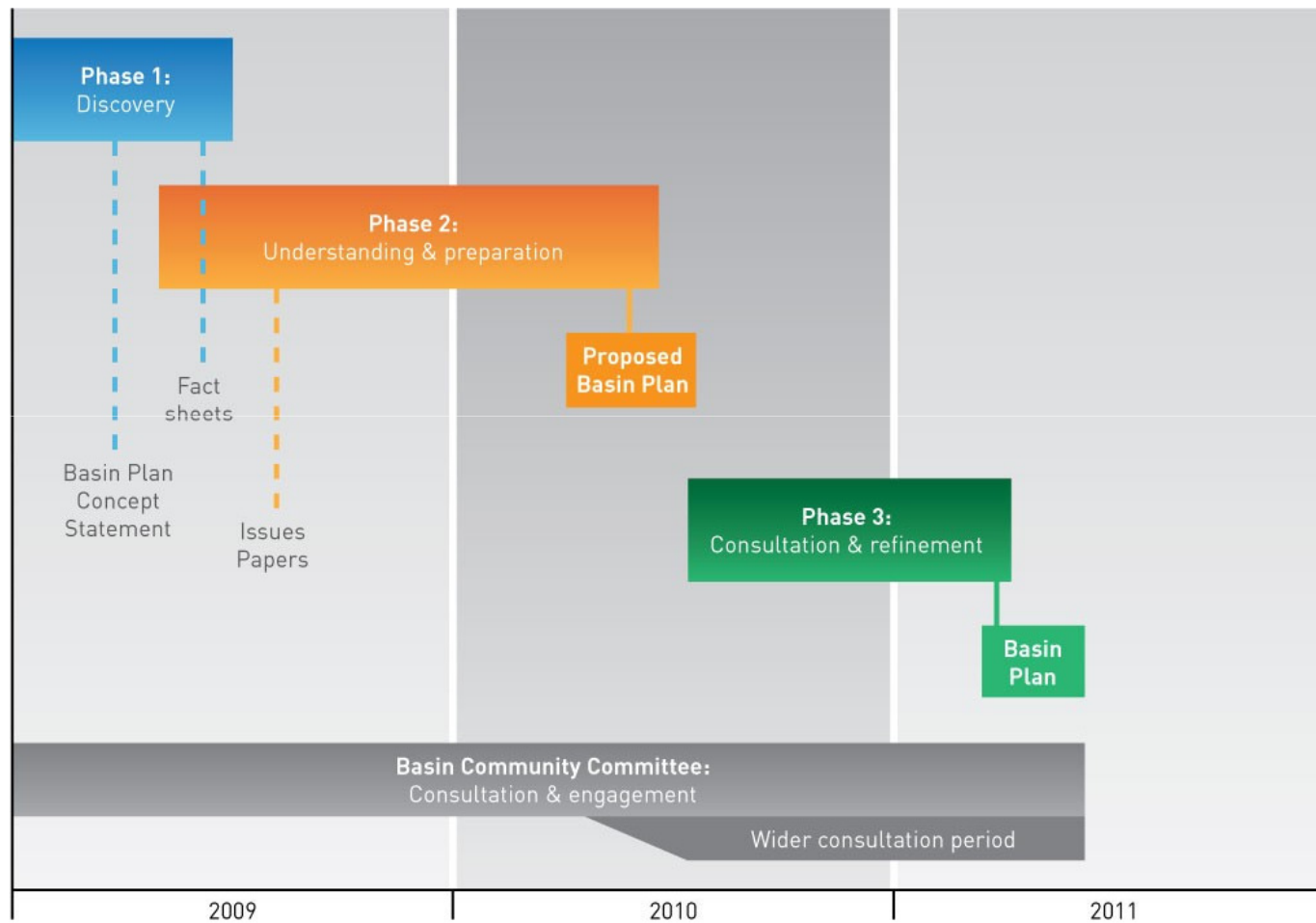
Key Elements of the Basin Plan



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Proposed Timelines



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- A description of the Basin water resources and the context in which those resources are used;
 - Size, extent, connectivity, condition
 - Uses (including Indigenous)
 - Users
 - Social and economic circumstances



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- Identification of the particular Areas that are to be water resources plan areas;
 - Water accounting periods
 - Specify water resources
 - All (or part) of surface water
 - All (or part) of ground water
 - All (or part) of watercourse, lake or aquifer



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- Identification of the risks to the condition, or continued availability, of the Basin water resources;
 - Take and use (including interception)
 - Effects of climate change
 - Changes to land use
 - Limitations of knowledge

- Strategies to be adopted to manage, or address, the identified risks;



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- Management objectives and outcomes to be achieved by the Basin plan;
 - Environmental outcomes
 - Water quality and salinity
 - Long term average SDL and temporary SDL
 - Trading in water access rights



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- The maximum long-term annual average quantities of water that can be taken, on a sustainable basis;
 - Basin water resources as a whole
 - Water resources of WRPA
 - Must be environmentally sustainable
 - Quantity, formula or other



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- The long-term annual average quantities that may be taken year by year from the water resources;
 - Transition period to SDL
 - Period of 5 years
- The method for determining whether the long term annual diversion limits for the water resources has been compiled with;
 - Includes provisions for trade or transfer
 - M&E and compliance



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- An environmental watering plan;
 - Overall environmental objectives for water dependant ecosystems
 - Specify targets
 - Health, flows, pressure, water levels
 - Framework for planned and held water
 - Method for ID of assets
 - Principles and methods for watering



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- A water quality and salinity plan;
 - Identify key causes of degradation
 - Quality and salinity objectives and targets
 - Have regard to NWQMS



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- The requirements that water resource plan must comply with;
 - Relevant to sustainable use
 - Management of water resources
 - Area, long term annual diversion limit
 - Regulation of interception
 - Planning for environmental watering
 - Metering and monitoring
 - Scientific information or models



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Mandatory Content of the Basin Plan

- Rules for the trading or transfer of tradeable water right in relation to Basin water resources;
- A program for the monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin plan.
 - Principles and framework
 - Reporting requirements
 - 5 yearly reviews of WQSMP and EWP



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Information requirements

- Descriptions of the Water resources, Environmental Attributes, and the Social and Economic circumstances of the Basin, Basin Regions and Basin communities.
- Inputs into Hydrology, Environmental, Social and Economic Modelling.



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Information requirements

- Data and Decision Support Tools to assist in identifying and articulating the impacts of the Basin plan.
- Information to assist the ongoing review and development of future Basin plans.



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Implications

- Engagement with relevant stakeholders
 - State/Territory agencies
 - Research Institutions
 - Experts
 - Basin Community Committee



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Implications

- Build data/information management systems
 - Knowledge base
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Compliance
- Design long term Basin Plan architecture populate key elements for first plan



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Implications

- Design long term Basin Plan architecture populate key elements for first plan
 - Proposed Basin Plan June 2010
 - Early 2011 implementation
 - 10 year reviews



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Thank You

Questions?



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