



Media release

From the Premier of Victoria John Brumby and
The Minister for Climate Change and Water Senator Penny Wong

Thursday 7 February 2008

CONSTRUCTIVE MURRAY-DARLING MEETING HELD IN MELBOURNE

The Premier of Victoria John Brumby, Federal Climate Change and Water Minister Penny Wong and Victorian Water Minister Tim Holding held a positive and constructive meeting on a way forward in managing the Murray-Darling Basin this afternoon.

Victoria and the Commonwealth agreed there was significant common ground that would allow positive discussions to continue.

Mr Brumby said the meeting with Senator Wong marked a significant departure from dealings with the previous Federal Government on water issues.

"Victoria has long held the position that the Murray-Darling system requires a national approach," Mr Brumby said.

"We have consistently sought meaningful discussions with the Commonwealth. I am pleased such discussions have now started."

Senator Wong said she would be meeting again with Minister Holding in the near future and would hold discussions with Basin States and stakeholders over the coming weeks.

"It was of great benefit to be able to sit down with the Premier and Minister Holding to talk about what we all want to achieve."

Both parties agreed a new approach to managing the Murray-Darling Basin that has the support of all States would be in the best interests of Australia, Victoria and the other Basin States.