



Australian Government

WATER for the FUTURE

Water Recovery and Environmental Use Stakeholder Reference Panel Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin Program

Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin is the Australian Government's \$3.1 billion program to buy back water entitlements, as part of the 10-year, \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* initiative.

A panel has been established to provide input to the way the Australian Government buys back water and uses it for the environment in the Murray-Darling Basin under the *Water for the Future* plan.

The Water Recovery and Environmental Use Stakeholder Reference Panel was appointed on 16 June 2009 by the Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator Penny Wong.

Panel members come from a broad cross-section of Murray-Darling Basin stakeholders including irrigators, environmentalist, water experts and community members.

The panel will facilitate the mutual exchange of information on the water recovery program and provide a forum for consultation and open discussion. In particular, the panel will:

- Consider arrangements for the water purchase mechanisms developed under the *Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin* program. This will include the socio-economic impact of water purchasing and the environmental benefits of water purchases and how best to disseminate information on the program to the public;
- Provide stakeholder views on the proposed arrangements for managing the water entitlements that the Australian Government buys for the environment.

Panel members have been chosen so that feedback can be provided from a range of different perspectives and community interests. These views will be considered by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts as it refines, implements and evaluates *Water for the Future* programs.

Members have been appointed on the basis of their expertise in water management, irrigation, research and other areas relevant to the water purchasing program. Appointments are for a minimum of 12 months and up to two years.

The members are:

1. Richard Anderson - Victorian Farmers Federation
2. Dr Arlene Buchan - Australian Conservation Foundation
3. Ben Haslett - Renmark Irrigation Farmer
4. David May - Wakool Landholders Association
5. Ray Najar - General Manager, Murray Darling Association
6. Tim Napier, Border Rivers Food & Fibre
7. Steven Ross - Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Executive Officer to the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
7. Michael Schultz - Fivebough and Tuckerbill Wetlands Trust
8. Rory Treweweke - Western Catchment Management Authority

The Chair will be the First Assistant Secretary, Water Efficiency Division in the Department.

More Information

For more information about the Water Recovery and Environmental Use Stakeholder Reference Panel call 1800 218 478 or visit:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/policy-programs/entitlement-purchasing/stakeholder-panel.html>

More information on the *Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin* program can be obtained by calling 1800 218 478, or visit www.environment.gov.au/waterpurchasing.

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Water for the Future is a long-term plan to secure the water supply for all Australians. The Government is investing \$12.9 billion over 10 years to address four key priorities:

- Taking action on climate change
- Using water wisely
- Securing water supplies
- Supporting healthy rivers