



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY – TIME TO FOCUS

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, is encouraging the Murray Darling Basin Authority to focus on the core task of delivering a balanced outcome in the lead-up to the release of its Murray Darling Basin Proposed Plan next month.

“Communities and stakeholders were shocked to see on the MDBA website last night references to the Plan being ‘...supported by all Basin Governments’,” Katrina Hodgkinson said.

“Irrespective of the fact that this was not true and that the website was later corrected, it remains the case that this is another instance of the MDBA talking about the Proposed Plan before it is finalised.

“Over the last few months, there has been a steady stream of reassuring messages from the MDBA about considering the needs of people, regional economies and the environment to deliver a balanced outcome.

“But, the MDBA has also continued to talk about reallocating 2,800 gigalitres from communities and agriculture to environmental flows.

“People are asking me if the MDBA has a strategy of repeating such messages over and over again in the hope that the community become more accepting of them before the Plan is presented for consultation.”

Katrina Hodgkinson again reminds the MDBA that there are many tens of thousands of livelihoods at stake.

“People are also asking if the Proposed Plan is any different to last year’s Guide.

“The NSW Government’s position has not changed and Basin communities expect the Plan to deliver triple bottom line outcomes that balance social, economic and environmental requirements.

“I urge the MDBA to focus on finishing and releasing its Proposed Plan,” Katrina Hodgkinson said.