



WATER  
CONVENTION

# Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook

2<sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting  
30-31 May 2020

*Presenter:*

**Bradley Moggridge**

*Thematic Group Discussion:*

**Theme 10**

*Case study:*

**Water Rights & Entitlements –  
Murray Darling Basin, Australia**



# Key reactions on current content of this thematic element of transboundary water allocation

- Determine the sustainable yield and diversion limits under climate change scenarios – best available science, combat overallocation
- Critical Human Needs
- Respect the environment as an entitlement holder based on best available science (yield) no economy on a dead river.
- Indigenous rights and values determined
- Buybacks/compensation, data collection, protection, independent regulation and transparency, consensus and funds to implement
- Quadruple bottom line – Social, Environmental, Cultural and Economic
- Overarching Authority with powers and regular independent review points
- Do not separate the management of surface and groundwater sources
- Set timelines for development and production and agreement reviews.



# Reaction / proposal on illustrative case study/s

- Murray Darling Basin, Australia (driest inhabited continent):
  - Covers one-seventh of Australia at **1million Km<sup>2</sup>** and over 2million people.
  - Covering **4 States and 1 Territory**, based on colonial settlements and Constitution
  - The Basin is one of our country's most important social, cultural, economic and environmental resources.
    - The Basin supports an **agricultural industry** worth more than \$9 billion per annum.
    - Environmentally, the Basin has **16 internationally recognised wetlands**
    - There are **40 autonomous Indigenous nations** for some 65,000yrs
  - National Water Initiative 2004, Commonwealth Water Act 2007 and the MD Basin Agreement 2008 + an MOU, MD Basin Plan, State and Territory water legislation to meet the requirements of the Basin Plan
  - 20 surface water and 22 groundwater and 6 combined surface water and groundwater water resource plans and Basin Wide Environmental Watering Plan, Water Quality Plans and Salinity Targets.
  - \$13Billion to make it happen