



Namoi Water

Policy Title:	Murray Darling Basin Plan
Policy Number:	005
Date Effective:	12.9.12

MDBA BASIN PLAN

1.	Purpose	To outline Namoi Water's position on Water issues in the Namoi catchment. This is the key policy area of the organisation
2.	Scope	Surface Water, Groundwater, Unregulated and Supplementary
3.	Definitions	<p>For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:</p> <p>NW : Namoi Water NSWIC: New South Wales Irrigators Council SPP : State Priority Project NOW : New South Wales Office of Water SWC : State Water Corporation MDBA: Murray Darling Basin Authority BP: Basin Plan</p>
4.	Policy Guidelines	<p>That the Murray Darling Basin Plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be based on a collaborative planning process that engages local expertise and the farm sector at valley scale in optimising water allocation b) balance social, economic and environmental outcomes c) prioritise on-farm water savings and investment in infrastructure as a means of achieving these outcomes <p>The Plan ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. any water for the environment that is procured by identifying "savings" (or buyback) be "physical" water not "theoretical" water and that this water be independently audited b. water purchased for the environment must maintain its original characteristics/classification (e.g. general security, high security etc.) and must consider inclusion of actual transmission losses to the delivery point for which it is intended c. any water purchased or procured for the environment be done on a totally transparent basis that will ensure a "no regrets" outcome; and d. the process of applying the cap be consistent across all valleys, that is, history of use or equal cut/cap e. cognisant of government policies for socio-economic impacts to be assessed on affected communities f. minimise the impact on irrigators and their communities

		<p>The development of Water Policy by Government Agencies, to reflect the rigor that was involved in developing existing Water Sharing Plans and ensures that they remain in force until they expire.</p> <p>These government agencies adopt criteria that are based on a sound scientific understanding and consider social, economic and environmental issues when allocating groundwater licences.</p>
5.	References	
6.	Appendices	NA
7.	Approval	<p>Developed by Jon Baker Approved by : Chairman : Jono Phelps Approved by : Vice Chair: Matt Norrie</p>
8.	Approval Dates	<p>This policy was approved on: 12.9.12 This version takes effect from: 12.9.12 This policy will be reviewed by: 12.8.13</p>
9.	Policy Owner	<p>Namoi Water is the peak industry group for irrigated agriculture in the Peel, Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Valleys in the North West of NSW.</p> <p>We are a non-profit, non-political organisation supporting our members to achieve a sustainable irrigation industry that meets the environmental, economic and social needs of our local communities.</p> <p>Contact: Jon-Maree Baker PO Box 548 Narrabri NSW 2390</p> <p>Mb: 0488 925222 Ph: 02 67925222 E: eo@namoiwater.com.au W: www.namoiwater.com.au</p>