



**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 19 December 2017

### **BASIN PLAN NEEDS EVERYONE AT THE TABLE**

NSW Minister for Regional Water, Niall Blair today hosted water ministers for the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council in Albury to discuss progress in delivering the Basin Plan.

Mr Blair said he was disappointed that once again South Australia was putting politics ahead of policy, politics ahead of the environment and politics ahead of local communities.

“NSW and Victoria offered up a way to move forward and commence early action towards additional water savings that deliver clear social and economic benefits but it was knocked on the head by South Australia,” Mr Blair said.

“The NSW Government is committed to working constructively with other states to deliver these crucial components of the Basin Plan, not only because it provides a balanced outcome, but also because it provides certainty for the over two million people living and working in the Murray Darling Basin.”

Mr Blair also presented the NSW Government’s water reform package built around best practice water management, robust regulation and information transparency.

“Our reform package commenced last month with the passage of legislation to create a new water regulator in NSW and actions are set to be rolled out over the next two years to ensure equitable and transparent water management in NSW,” Mr Blair said.

“I commend the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) for completing its assessment of 605 gegalitres of water savings projects in the southern Murray Darling Basin and welcome the environmental gains and investment the projects are set to deliver to regional NSW.

“These projects have been rigorously assessed to ensure they deliver the best outcomes for our rivers, our food and fibre producers and our regional communities, with up to \$1.3 billion of investment injected throughout the Basin through to 2024.”

The NSW Government also welcomes EY’s preliminary report into the additional 450 gegalitres of water savings and awaits the final review to allow continued focus on ensuring long-term sustainability and growth of rural communities.

**MEDIA: Evie Madden | Minister Blair | 0409 682 163**