

Water Resource Plans, and their capacity to adapt

Marcus Finn

Senior Director – Water Resource Plans and Basin Policy

Marcus.Finn@mdba.gov.au

02 6279 0634

23 February 2019



Australian Government



Today's presentation

- WRP background
- Can WRPs adapt?
- WRPs and environmental watering



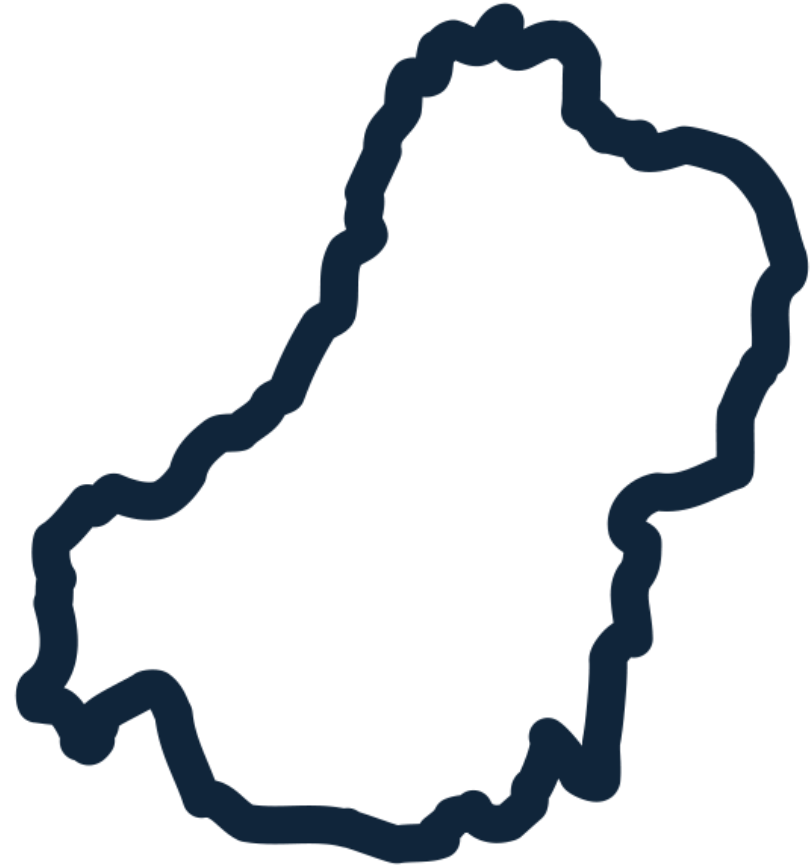
Water resource plans

Roles

- Basin states:
 - Develop WRPs consistent with the Basin Plan for accreditation (distinct from state legislation – e.g. WSP)
- MDBA:
 - Provide guidance and feedback; assess WRPs; prepare the recommendation to the Minister
- Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR):
 - Support the Minister after receiving the WRP package and the MDBA recommendation.
- Minister for Water:
 - The Minister is responsible for accrediting WRPs.

Water resource plans


- 33 water resource plans
- Covers groundwater and/or surface water in a defined area




What's in a water resource plan


 Compliance with the sustainable diversion limit and water trade rules

 Protection of water for the environment

 Water quality and salinity objectives

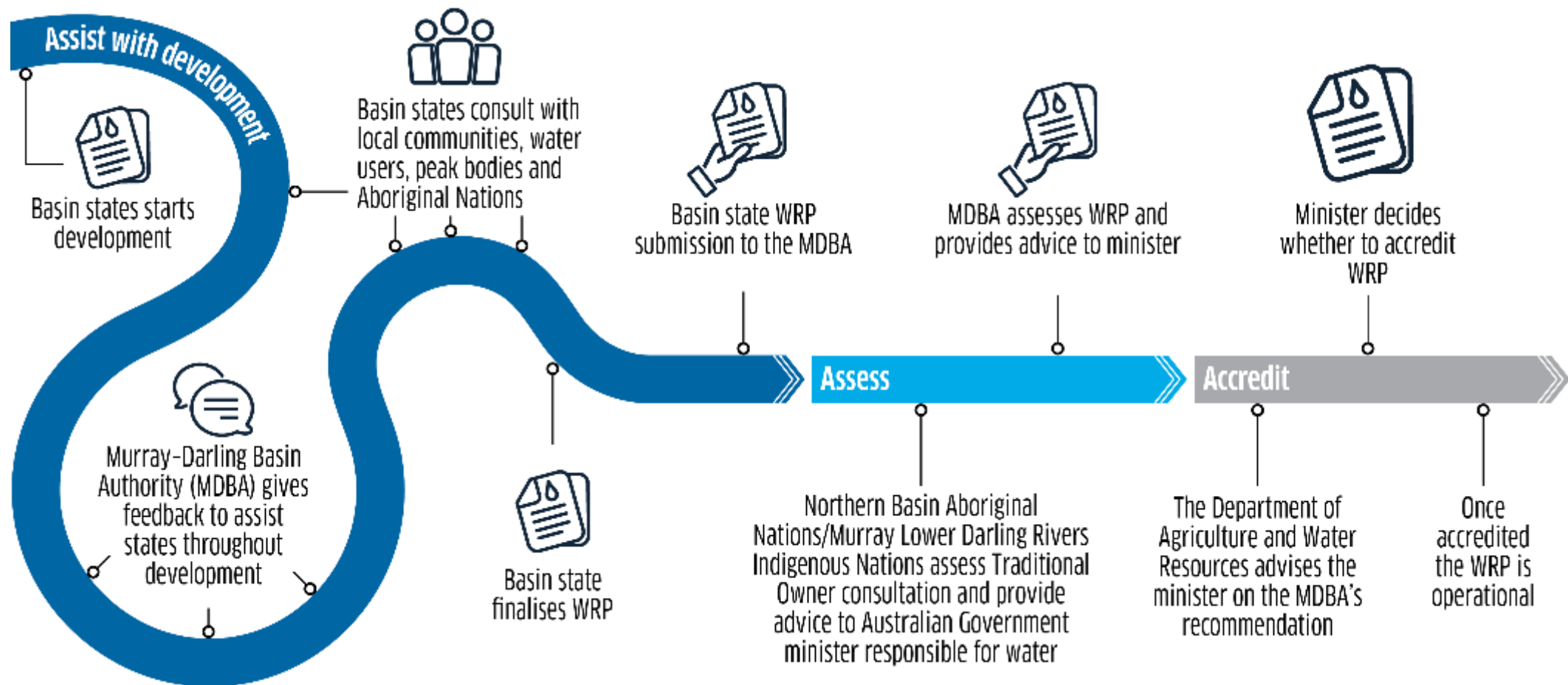
 Aboriginal values and uses

 Measuring and monitoring

 Arrangements for extreme weather events



Water resource plan accreditation

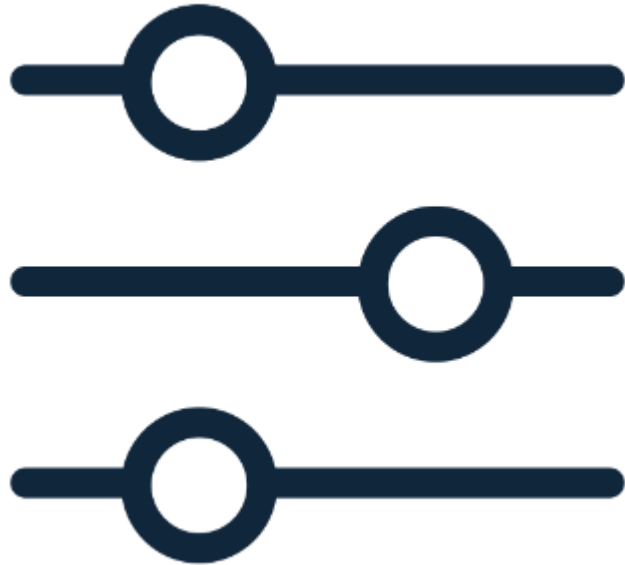


Adaptive management

23 February 2019



Adaptive management

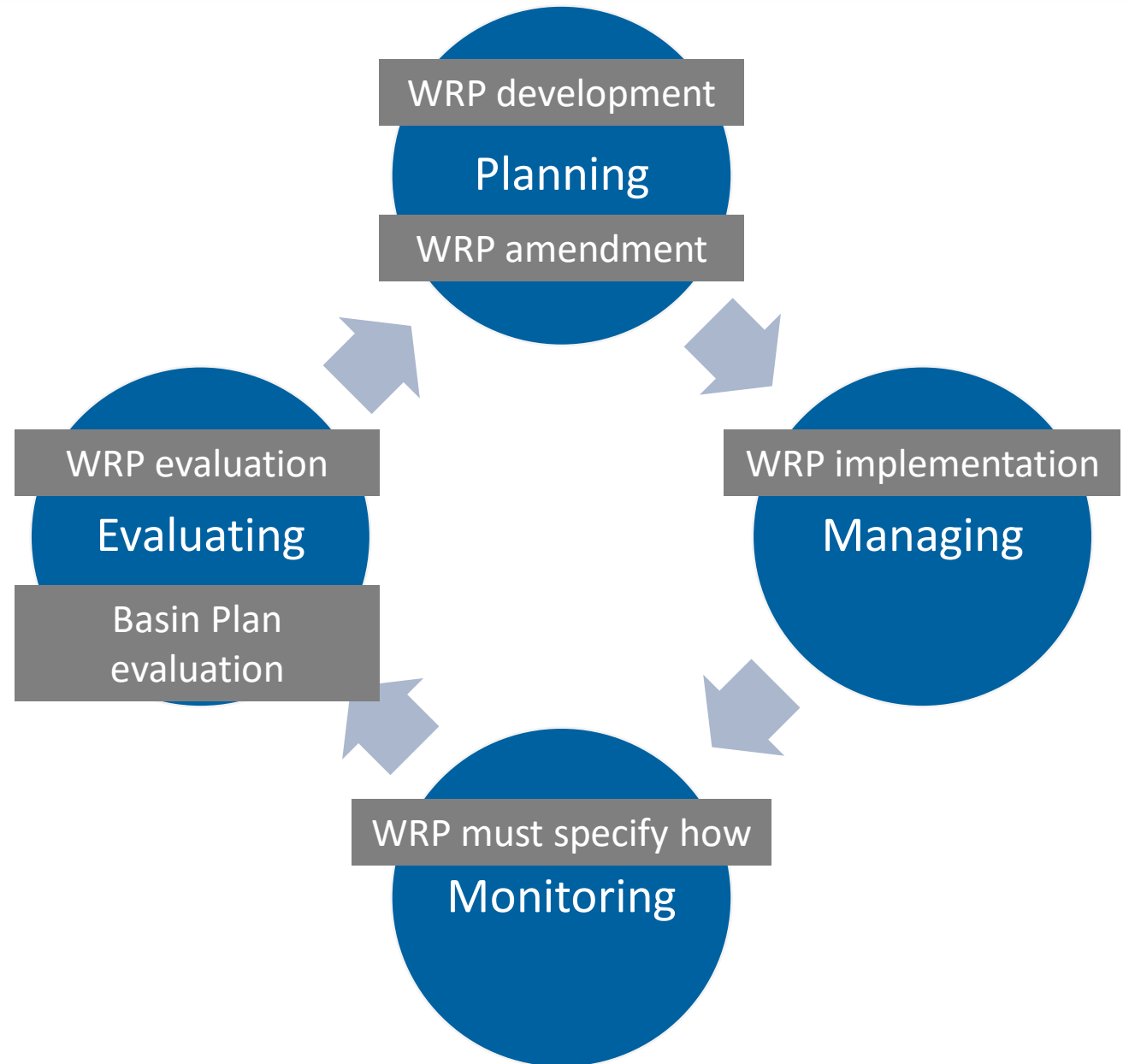


- ‘Learning as you go’
- Trialling techniques, monitoring, making changes
- Adaptive management delivers best outcomes

Adaptive ability of WRPs

- During development
 - Basin Plan operates at “macro” scale
 - Needs to apply north to south, across approach of five governments
 - Requirements apply sound water management principles, but allow application to work at local scale
 - e.g. “have regard” requirements
 - Give proper, realistic and genuine consideration
 - After that consideration, may apply what works locally
 - Must be explicit
- After accreditation
 - A number of evaluation and reporting requirements (Sched. 12 BP)
 - WRPs are not set in stone, they can be amended:
 - Amendments presented to Authority at any time, and then Minister
 - If Basin Plan amended, WRPs have 3 years to be updated (Minister can extend for up to a year)
 - Accredited WRPs are able to adapt to improvements in knowledge or changes in approach

- Adaptation occurs at all stages
- Ensures efficient and effective outcomes

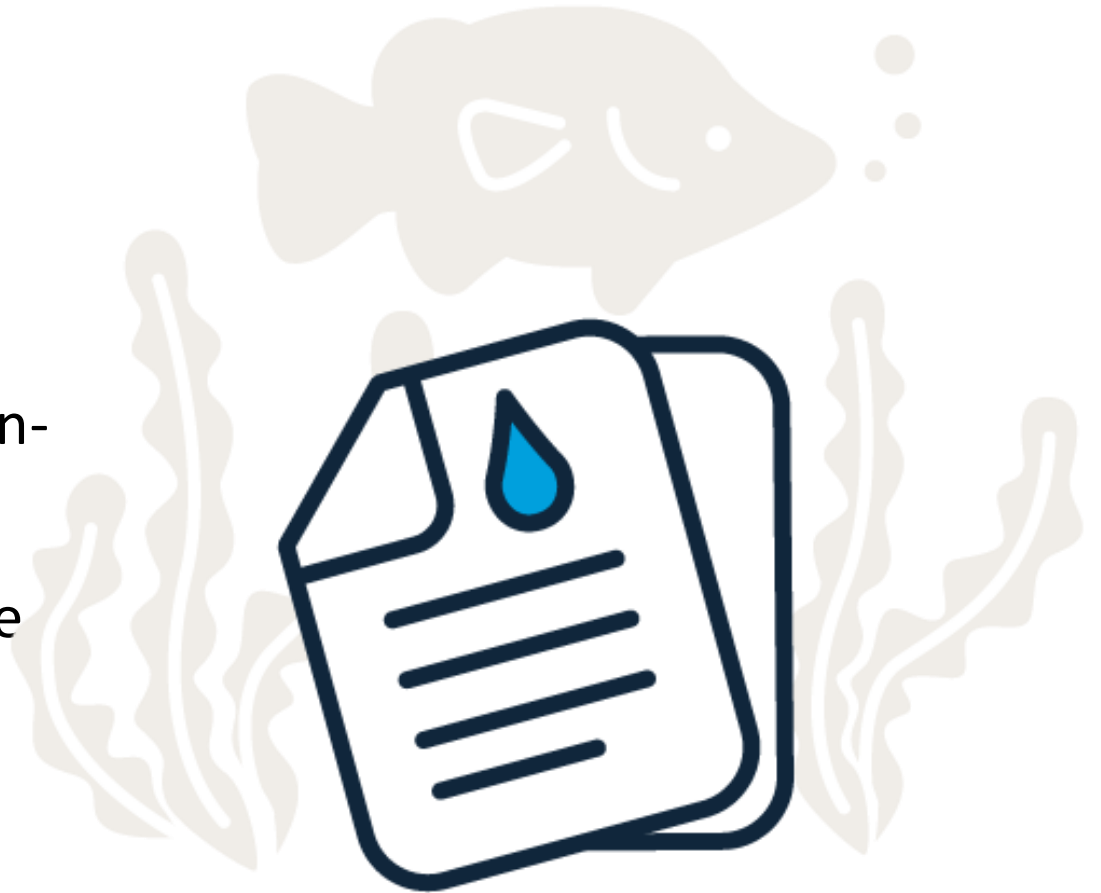


WRPs and water for the environment

23 February 2019

(some) WRP requirements for e-water

- Demonstrate compliance with SDL
- Have regard to the need for rules (to ensure EWRs are not compromised)
- Provide for e-watering consistently with Basin-wide watering strategy
- Have regard to the most recent version of the long-term watering plan
- No net reduction of planned environmental water



Thank you

Office locations

Adelaide

Albury-Wodonga

Canberra

Goondiwindi

Toowoomba

 mdba.gov.au  1800 630 114

 engagement@mdba.gov.au