



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 12 Ordinary Meeting

Date: 2 August, 2017 Start Time: 10.05am

Location: Ernest Brock Room, Roma Cultural Centre, Maranoa Regional Council

Address: Cnr Bungil and Quintin Streets, Roma

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr Richard Marsh	Region 12 Chair and Mayor, Balonne Shire Council
Ms Emma Bradbury	CEO, Murray Darling Association Inc
Mr Matthew Magin	CEO, Balonne Shire Council
Cr Tyson Golder	Mayor, Maranoa Regional Council
Cr Charlie Brimblecombe	Central Highlands Regional Council
Cr Paul McVeigh	Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council
Cr Andrew Smith	Deputy Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council
Mr David Littleproud	Federal Member for Maranoa
Ms Eloise Handley	Media Advisor, Federal Member for Maranoa
Mrs Julie Davies	Secretary, Region 12 MDA and Communications Officer, Balonne Shire Council

1.2 Apologies

Cr Lindsay Godfrey	Mayor, Paroo Shire Council
Mr Chris Cowley	CEO, Paroo Shire Council
Cr Paul Antonio	Mayor, Toowoomba Regional Council
Mr Brian Pidgeon	CEO, Toowoomba Regional Council
Cr Andrew Martin	Mayor, Blackall Tambo Regional Council
Mr Chris Blanch	CEO, Blackall Tambo Regional Council
Cr John Ferguson	Mayor, Bulloo Shire Council
Dr Edwina Marks	CEO, Bulloo Shire Council
Cr Annie Liston	Mayor, Murweh Shire Council
Mr Neil Polglase	CEO, Murweh Shire Council
Cr Stuart McKenzie	Mayor, Quilpie Shire Council
Mr Dave Burges	CEO, Quilpie Shire Council
Cr Rick McDougall	Goondiwindi Regional Council
Cr Graeme Scheu	Mayor, Goondiwindi Regional Council
Mr Carl Manton	CEO, Goondiwindi Regional Council
Cr Keith Campbell	Mayor, South Burnett Regional Council
Mr Gary Wall	CEO, South Burnett Regional Council
Cr Tracy Dobie	Mayor, Southern Downs Regional Council
Mr David Keenan	CEO, Southern Downs Regional Council
Cr Jason Cook	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Cr Kerry Hayes	Mayor, Central Highlands Regional Council
Mr Scott Mason	CEO, Central Highlands Regional Council
Ms Anne Leahy	State Member for Warrego
Cr David Thurley	MDA Inc National President
Cr Greg Christensen	Mayor, Scenic Rim Regional Council
Mr Craig Barke	CEO, Scenic Rim Regional Council

Motion: That apologies be accepted.

Cr Brimblecombe/Cr Smith - Carried

2 WELCOME

2.1 Hosting Mayor's welcome

Maranoa Mayor Cr Tyson Golder welcomed attending delegates to the meeting. He spoke of the proud fishing tradition in the Maranoa region and how Maranoa River is Australia's second fastest flowing river in Australia.

2.2 Chair, Region 12

Cr Richard Marsh welcomed all attendees to the inaugural meeting of Murray Darling Association Region 12 Councils. He thanked Cr Golder for hosting the meeting as Roma was the most central site for this group of councils.

2.3 Member for Maranoa

Member for Maranoa Mr David Littleproud told attendees that it was important he was at the meeting as the Murray Darling Basin Plan was a very topical issue and he was the only Queensland Federal Member of Parliament whose constituents were impacted by the Plan. He acknowledged the advocacy work done by the Balonne Shire Council with Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce was instrumental in getting the Northern Basin Review target adjusted from 390GL to 320GL. He hoped this renewed target would be accepted by Senate. He noted compliance was an issue across the basin.

3 MINUTES

N/A

4 REPORTS

4.1 Chair , Region 12

Cr Marsh is the inaugural Chair of Region 12 MDA Inc and will be in the role for 12 months. Region 12 consists of the 15 Queensland councils situated in the Murray Darling Basin which covers 179 local government authorities. He advised Scenic Rim Regional Council has requested not to be part of Region 12.

4.2 CEO's Report

Ms Bradbury thanked those attending for the opportunity to explain the role of the Murray Darling Association Inc. – ***See Attached Presentation***

Motion: That the reports be accepted.

Cr Marsh/Cr Brimblecombe – Carried

4.3 MDA Inc Presentation

Ms Bradbury advised attendees that MDA Inc is a not-for-profit organisation and the membership rate was 28.4c per head of population. This rate is capped at \$6183.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Future Meeting Dates and best location

Attendees decided best location for meetings was Roma for ease of access, accommodation and central location for all LGAs. ***Date for next meeting – please advise if Monday, 23 October, 2017 would be suitable for all parties.***

5.2 Regional Priority List

- Set Sustainable Diversion Limit from the Northern Basin at 320GL.
- Water Security for Northern Basin communities

5.3 Motions

Attendees sought clarification on current memberships and voting rights of those in attendance, this being an inaugural meeting of the region. This request was taken on notice by the CEO.

Attendees also felt that it was important to involve their councils in more actively developing a shared understanding of and commitment to the processes of the MDA before formally voting on positions that may then imply a position of council.

In the interests of good governance, attendees resolved instead that the following items were discussed, and agreed upon unanimously by those in attendance.

- a) That Region 12 supports the Basin Plan to be implemented in accordance with the legislation as it is written giving consideration to its capacity to provide amendments to the sustainable diversion limits through consultation with the community.
- b) That Region 12 supports the recommendations of the Northern Basin Review and seeks to ensure there is no further recovery above the recommended 320GL. Region 12 also calls on governments of all persuasions across the Basin to provide support for a good outcome for all. (*Background - Region 12 recognises the importance of ensuring there are no adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on southern basin communities.*)
- c) That Region 12 requests the Chair raise the resolutions with the MDA Board at the next Board meeting seeking basin-wide support for the resolution.
- d) That the Chair and CEO of Region 12 arrange an appropriate time for a co-ordinated event for the organisation to address member and prospective member councils across the region.

6 GUEST PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Murray Darling Basin Authority, Colin Mues – *see attached presentation*

6.2 Fisheries Research and Development Centre, Matt Barwick

7 NEXT MEETING: Proposed date – Monday 23 October, 2017 at Roma.

8 CLOSE 2.36pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Balonne Shire Council and Maranoa Regional Council for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 12.



2017 WORKPLAN

Our Purpose

To provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal levels in the management of our Basin resources.

MDA Strategic Plan 2016-19

Introduction

Local government has a key role to play in the future of the Murray Darling Basin. As the peak representative body for local government across the Basin, the MDA is responsible for ensuring that our actions always deliver value to our members by ensuring a strong alignment with our Purpose.

As such, our Purpose provides the bedrock for our activities, and those activities are identified and agreed in the following workplan for the year ahead.

Our Strategic Plan provides the framework for the 2017 Workplan, which connects via a 'clear line of sight' from the Strategic Plan to our operational activities.

Further, the actions and activates identified in this workplan align with the CEO's performance indicators and may be used as a measure of their performance in the role.

The key focus of the 2017 workplan is to build the capacity within our regions, ensuring strong governance and active engagement and thereby providing the imprimatur for the MDA to speak with authority about Basin matters on behalf of local government:

Limiting factors

Our reality is that we have a limited income base which, in turn, restricts what we can do, and how many we can employ to do it.

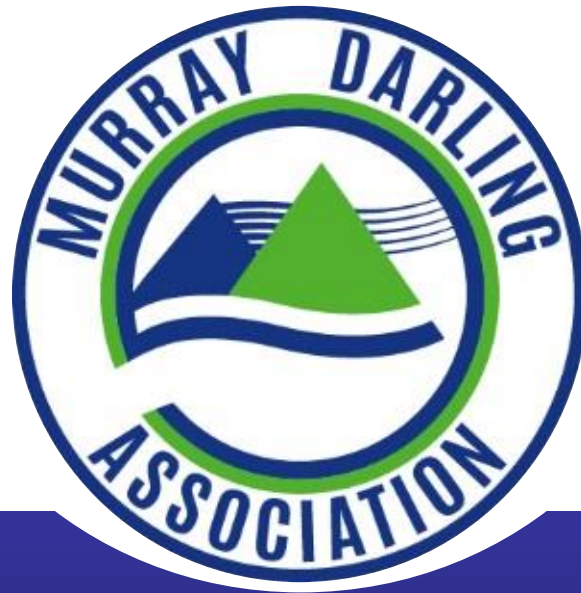
As such, we must ensure that Murray Darling Association is, and is seen to be a key Basin partner. To do this with limited resources means that we must be considered in our activities; do the right things and do them well.

The 2017 Workplan identifies the crucial elements required in order to deliver against our Purpose, and sets out the actions that will provide the greatest value and effect. If we are restricted in what we can do, let's ensure that each activity adds to a firm foundation and structure for the following year's work.

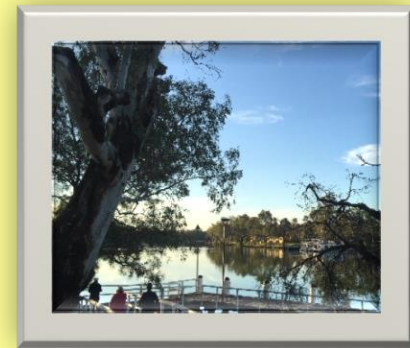
Key Strategic Activities for 2017

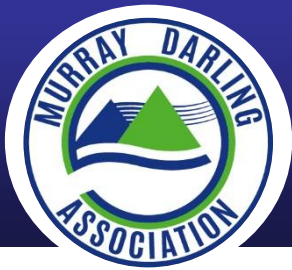
Strategic Objective and supporting theme	Workplan Activities	Measures	Responsibility
<p>Strategic Goal: to be a valued source of accurate, concise, valid, timely information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop effective communication systems: at Board level; from communities to policymakers; and across the regions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and adopt an efficient, low-cost system for Board and cross-region communication Provide regular updates to inform members of issues or that arise or exist in different parts of the Basin Develop an efficient content management strategy Scope and budget part time IT/Content management service Quarterly e-newsletter 	<p>Seamless video conferencing in place for Board meetings</p> <p>Quarterly region reports distributed after each meeting</p> <p>Regular content updates online</p> <p>Budget allocation for management if social media</p> <p>Quarterly e-newsletter</p>	<p>CEO/NP</p> <p>Region Chairs/CEO</p> <p>TBA</p> <p>CEO/Finance manager</p> <p>CEO</p>
<p>Goal: to facilitate informed and constructive debate</p> <p>Goal: to influence the policies of government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that effective regional council meetings are held regularly Identify the key politicians, department heads, agency heads and other people who influence Basin policy and create a robust working network 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a suite of tools and templates which provide a good basis upon which regions can base their meetings. Conduct quarterly meetings across all regions. Undertake meetings and form good working relationships with the key people and agencies at state and federal levels who need to be in our network. 	<p>Regional Chair kit in place and being used by region secretariats</p> <p>Regions are compliant with the Constitution.</p> <p>Regions are developing regional identities and priorities.</p>	<p>CEO / Region Chairs</p> <p>Region Chairs/CEO</p> <p>Region Chairs/CEO</p>

Strategic Objective and supporting theme	Workplan Activities	Measures	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the new regional boundaries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Regional Issues maps x 12 Each region has a standing item on its agenda for the Regional Issues map including some discussion of the Regional Boundary review, scheduled for 2018 	<p>Regional Chairs establish effective regional, state-based, networks</p> <p>Networks are expanded and effective.</p> <p>Regions adopt Regional Strategy</p> <p>Review and adopt updated Regional Boundaries by Feb 2018</p>	<p>National President/CEO</p> <p>Region Chairs</p> <p>Regional Chairs/CEO</p>
<p>Goal: to be a strong, viable, self-sustaining organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Board member has a clear understanding of the role of the Association and his/her role on the Board Our financial base is sufficient to do our work. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Directors have easy access to and develop a sound understanding of: the Constitution; the Strategic Plan; the Workplan Budget agendas support implementation of the Workplan Agree the Terms of Reference and initial workplan for a specialist Finance Subcommittee Meet the 2016/17 budget expectations Successfully complete the 2016/17 financial audit Prepare and approve the 2017/18 budget 	<p>Murray Darling Association holds a current induction on file for each Chair and council</p> <p>An effective Board Agenda is in place</p> <p>Resolution of the Board at Meeting 363</p> <p>Adoption of the workplan at Meeting 364</p> <p>Budget met</p> <p>Audit certificate gained</p> <p>A balanced budget is developed and adopted</p>	<p>CEO/Board Members</p> <p>National President/CEO</p> <p>CEO/Board</p> <p>CEO/Board</p> <p>CEO</p> <p>CEO/Board</p>



Region 12 Inaugural Meeting Roma – August 2017





INTRODUCTION

- The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is a membership based body representing local government and communities across the Murray Darling Basin.
- The Basin covers 14 percent of the land mass of Australia.
- There are 167 local government organisations across the Basin whose communities derive their wellbeing from the resources of the Basin.
- Over 100 of these organisations are now members of the MDA.

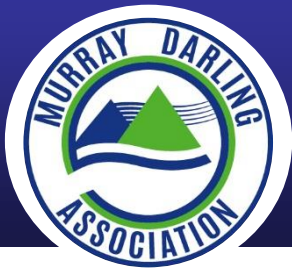


"If the MDA didn't exist, we'd have to invent it,"

Hon Craig Knowles, Chairman

Murray Darling Basin Authority (2011-2015), Forbes 2014

Local government must have the means and opportunity to actively participate in informing water policy

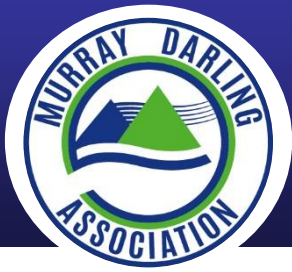


OUR PURPOSE

To provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by

- Sharing information
- Facilitating debate
- Seeking to inform government policy

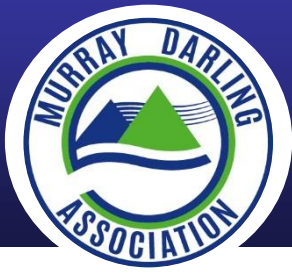




OUR HISTORY

- The Murray Darling Association initially formed in 1944 with the objective of providing sufficient water supplies and hydro-electricity to support sustainable production in agriculture, business and industry across the basin.
- This organisation was instrumental in securing support for the Snowy River Diversion and its associated hydro electricity scheme.
- Today, with the implementation of the Basin Plan impacting every community across the basin, the purpose of the MDA has never had greater relevance.

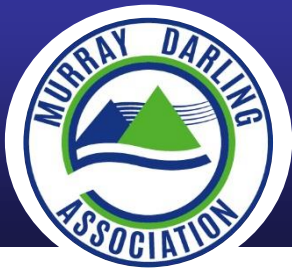




OUR REGIONS



- The MDA has 12 Regions across the basin
- Covering 4 states & ACT
- Regions associated by councils in communities of interest.
- State borders are not defining boundaries

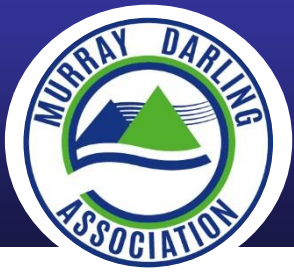


OUR STRENGTH

The MDA's strength and success in providing clear direction, local solutions; and strong, credible advocacy relies upon

- Strong regional leadership
- good governance – at national and regional level
- active participation by member councils, and
- the technical and professional expertise that is uniquely invested in local government



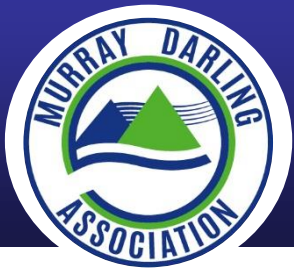


THE STRENGTH

Let's recap...

167 municipalities across 14% of the
Australian continent.

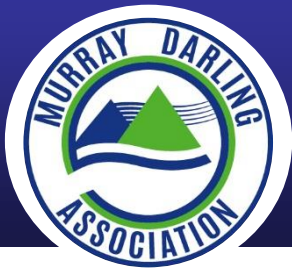
That is a powerful voice!



LOCAL ISSUES BASIN STRENGTH

- Common purpose
- Unique circumstances
- Local solutions
- Basin-wide support





GOAL

Local government representation at Ministerial Council and on the Basin Official Committee to provide more direct local content in the decisions guiding the ongoing implementation of the Basin Plan is essential.

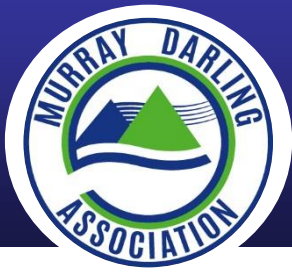
Local government has the technical capacity and local knowledge required to understand, balance, plan for, and serve the various and often competing needs and interests that exist within and across our local communities.

MDA has over 70 years' experience, the only coalition of local governments of its kind, a format for regular information sharing and genuine regional and interstate collaboration

Demonstrated disciplined and constructive approach.

Benefit and certainty to our communities, and stability to our governments.

Genuinely IAP2 model

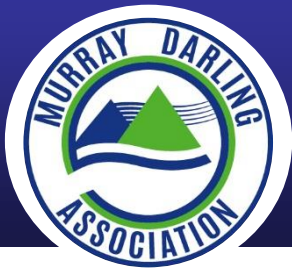


MEMBERSHIP

What does the MDA offer

- Cost effective membership to a nationally recognised local government association – with a sole focus on delivering local solutions through Basin Resources (water) policy development.
- Constitutionally adopted purpose, delivered under a nationally transparent and accountable governance and executive structure.
- 73 years history of national achievements, and a strong and dynamic future.
- Direct engagement with state and federal based decision makers on water issues at the highest levels.
- **Relationships with councils and stakeholders across the Basin.****

* Membership should not be considered an 'either/or' proposition. Each serves an important role.

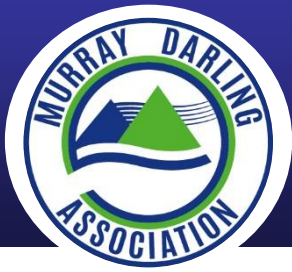


THE 450GL – where are we?

First...a couple of basic principles:



- MDA advocates for the Basin plan to be implemented in accordance with the legislation
- The 450GL 'upwater' ***can only be recovered*** under the Plan if the impacts of the recovery are have neutral or beneficial socio-economic impact.
- Without a strong voice for local government at the state and federal level – the opposing positions of the states on this issue will place our communities at risk.

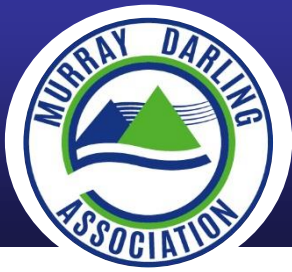


Our Position is Our Members Position

So what ***IS*** the MDA's position on the 450GL?

- That any consideration of recovery of the 450GL up water must comply with the conditions stipulated under the Act.
- That the assessment of socio-economic neutrality must be evidence based and follow agreed assessment criteria.
- That assessment process must be informed by local knowledge across all regions of the Basin

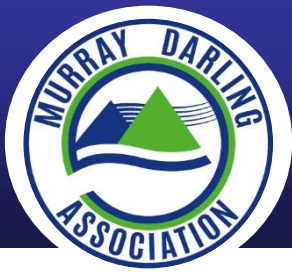
**** This position is shared across all regions on the Basin***



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Local government and community forum – MinCo May 2017
- Maintained river heights – Easter 2017
- Negotiations to establish strategy ongoing.
- Social and economic impact assessment.
- Constructive solutions to complex issues.
- Raised the profile and input of local government in Basin related decisions
- Provide a platform for your council to inform the regional and national dialogue.
- Many more...



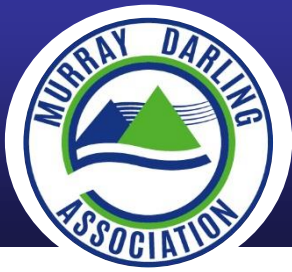


CALL TO ACTION



- Strong regional leadership and participation
 - Active and current membership
 - Equal delegation or support of Councillors ***and officers***
 - Submissions on regional issues and strategic priorities
- Murray-Darling Assoc Regional Plans

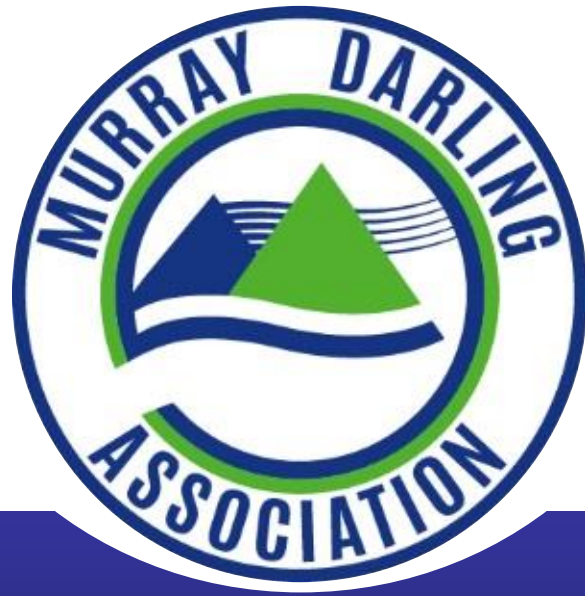




Region 12

Queensland Northern Basin

Thank you



Questions



Basin Plan update

Colin Mues

MDBA – Chief Economist

Scope of the report card

Basin Plan Outcomes

Healthy
environment

Strong
industries
and
communities

Good
governance

How is implementation going? What have been the outcomes?

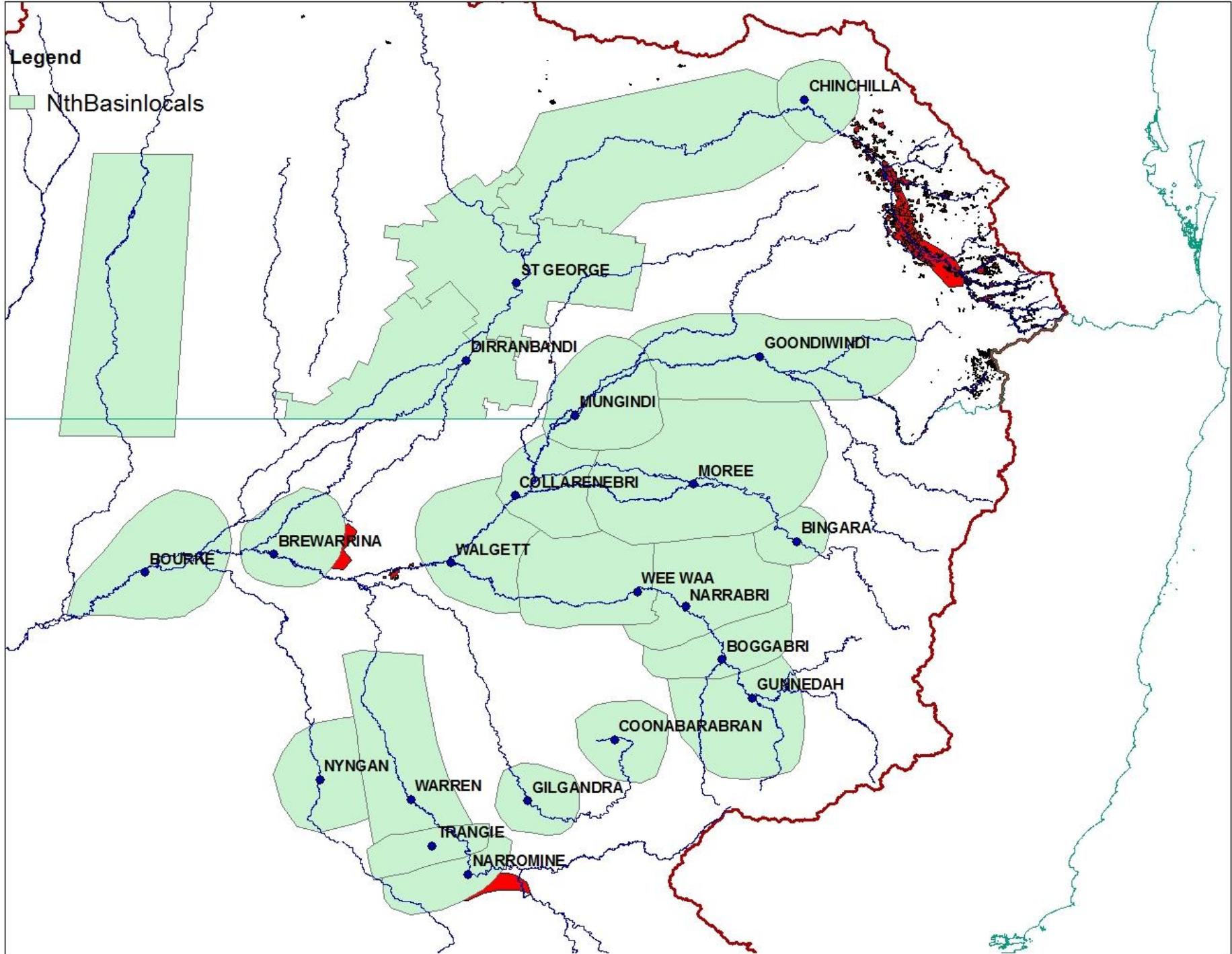
We are part way through implementation – how can future implementation be improved?

Levels of analysis

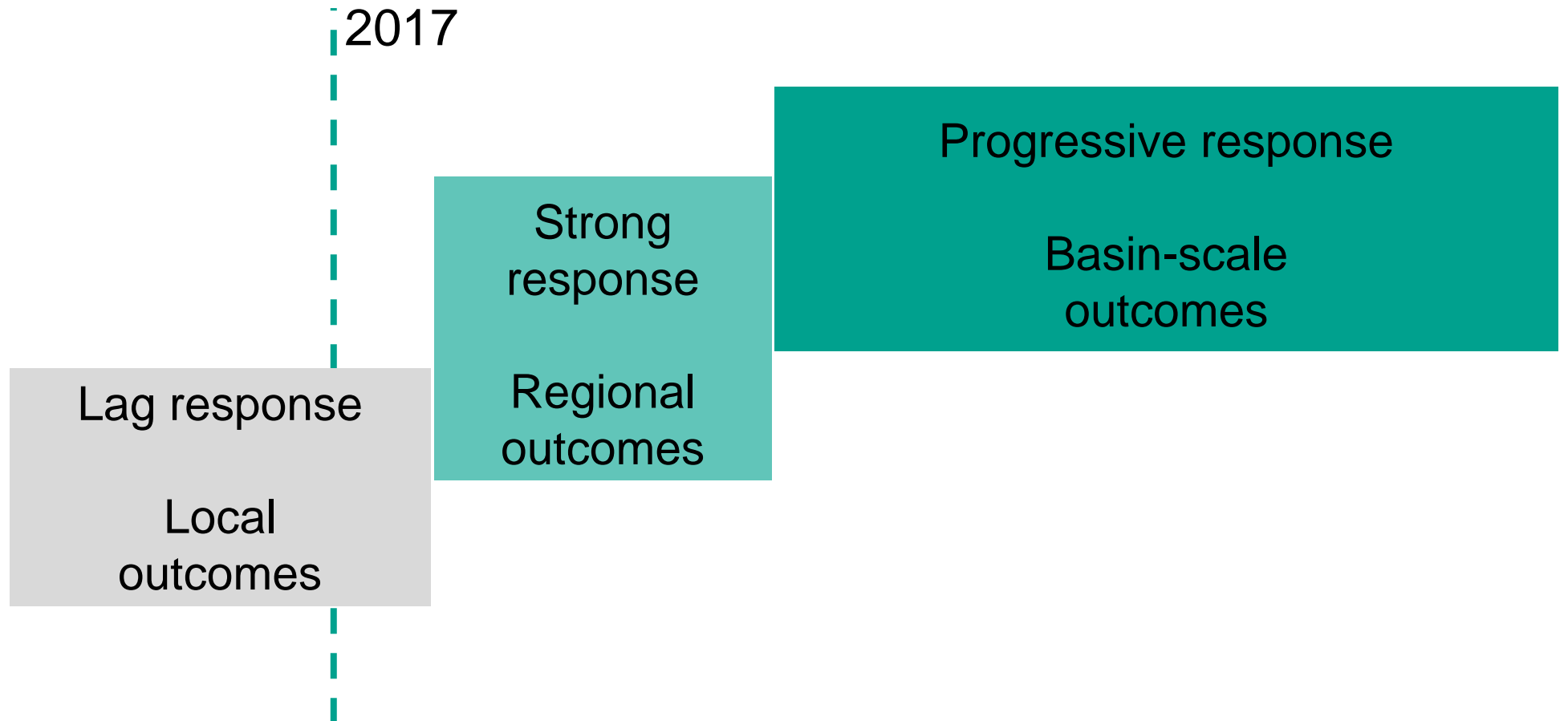
- Basin
- Region/catchment
- Community
- Industry case studies if possible

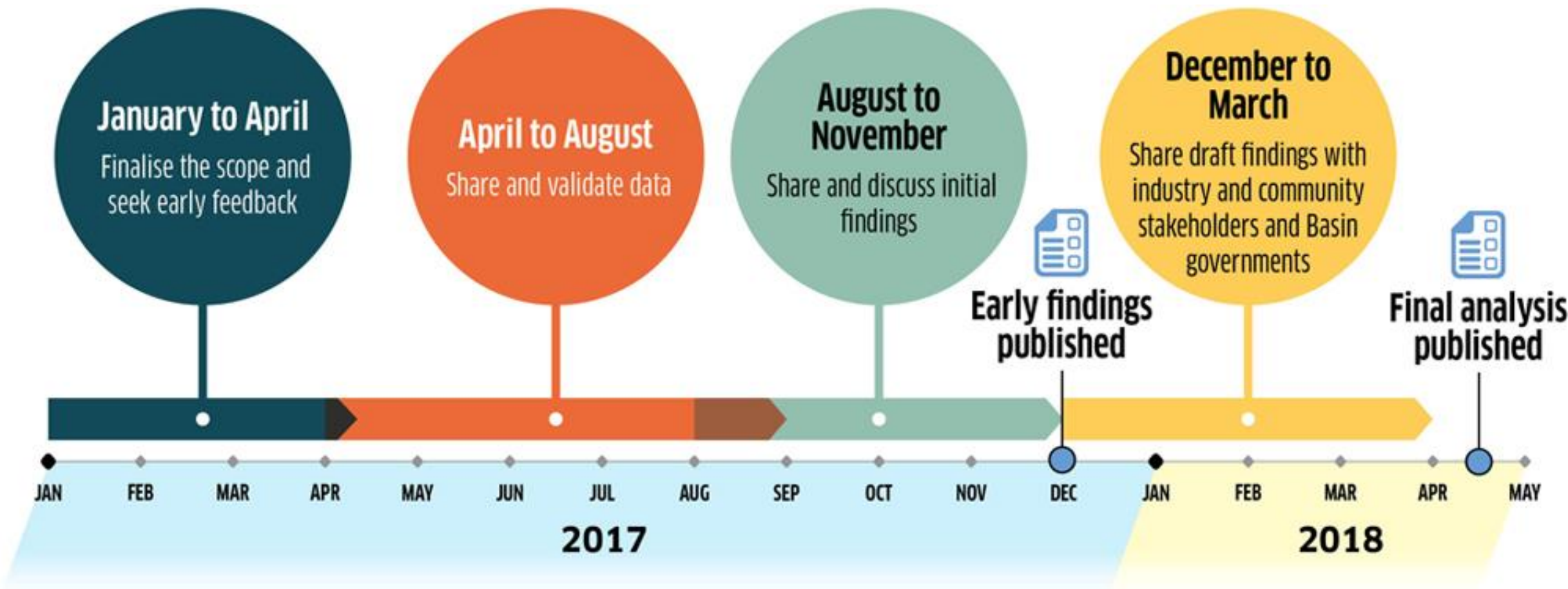
Need to understand BP impacts and other drivers of change





Evaluating environmental outcomes





January to April
Finalise the scope and seek early feedback

April to August
Share and validate data

August to November
Share and discuss initial findings

December to March
Share draft findings with industry and community stakeholders and Basin governments

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

2017

2018

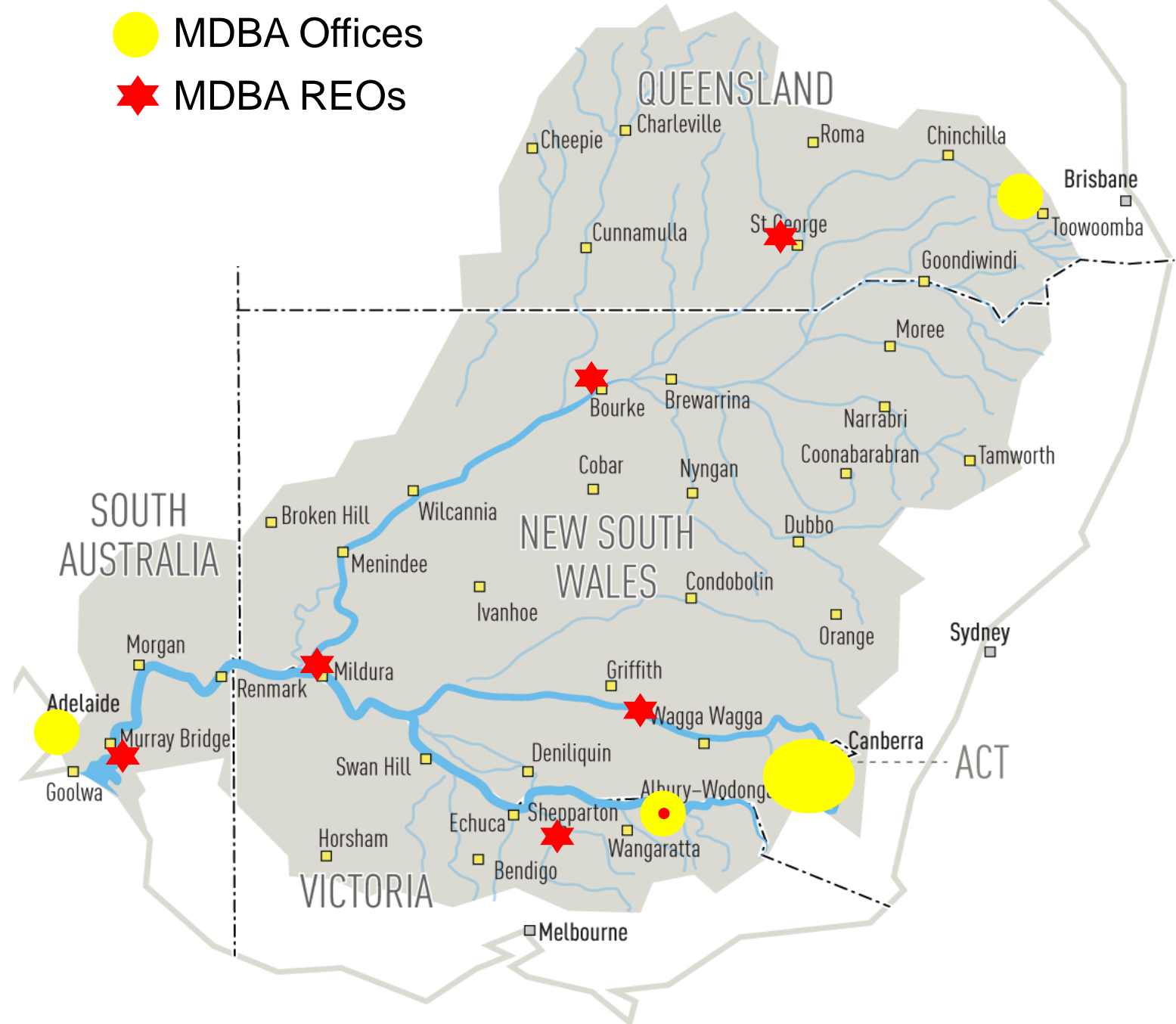
Early findings published

Final analysis published

Regionalisation

There will be offices in Canberra, Adelaide, Albury-Wodonga and Toowoomba, and a permanent REO network.

This work will be guided by regional engagement plans – the whole organisation has a role in implementing these plans.

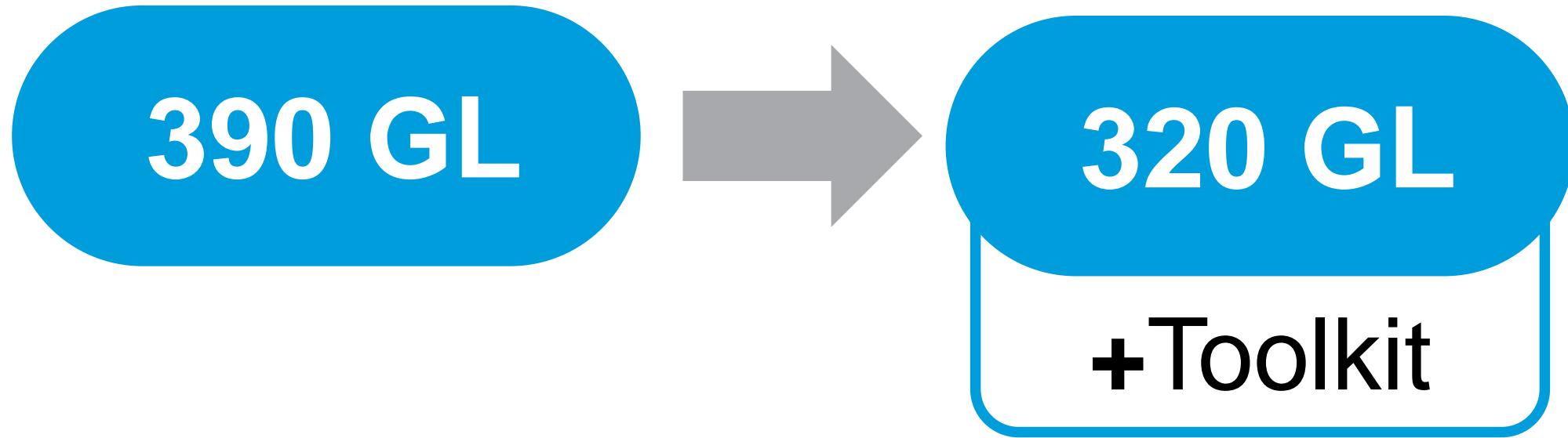


Basin-wide Compliance Review

The Minister for Agriculture will be writing to all Basin water ministers seeking their agreement to an MDBA review.



Basin Plan Amendments



Questions