

Murray-Darling Basin Amendment Bill 2002

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

Arrangements for the sharing of water from the rivers comprising the Murray-Darling Basin are the subject of an agreement entered into on 24 June 1992 between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (the **Murray-Darling Basin Agreement**). Legislative approval to that agreement was given when Parliament enacted the *Murray-Darling Basin Act 1992*. A copy of the agreement is set out in Schedule 1 to that Act.

The Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have subsequently entered into an agreement to amend the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (the **Murray-Darling Basin Amending Agreement**) so as to make new arrangements for sharing water made available in the River Murray catchment above Hume Dam by the Snowy Scheme.

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Murray-Darling Basin Act 1992* so as to give legislative approval to the Murray-Darling Basin Amending Agreement. As a consequence of that approval, the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement will be amended in accordance with the terms of the Murray-Darling Basin Amending Agreement.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day to be appointed by proclamation.

Clause 3 is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Murray-Darling Basin Act 1992* set out in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1 Amendments

Schedule 1 [1] substitutes the definition of **Agreement** in section 4 (1) to reflect the adoption of the Amending Agreement.

Schedule 1 [2] inserts a definition of **Amending Agreement** into section 4 (1).

Schedule 1 [3] inserts proposed section 6A. The new section gives legislative approval to the Amending Agreement.

Schedule 1 [4] inserts proposed Schedule 2. The new Schedule contains the text of the Amending Agreement.