



Ms Shelley Scoullar  
Chair  
Speak Up Campaign Inc

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Dear Ms Scoullar

Thank you for your letter of 23 February 2023 to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, concerning the impact of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan on regional communities. Your correspondence has been referred to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP. Minister Plibersek has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on her behalf.

I appreciate that the Murray–Darling Basin is a vital resource for millions of Australians, including agricultural producers, Basin communities and First Nations people. This is why ensuring a sustainable and healthy Basin is critical.

As noted in previous correspondence dated 1 March 2023 (MC23-010621), the Australian Government is committed to delivering the Basin Plan in full, including the 450 GL of additional environmental water. The Basin Plan is vital to assist communities, industries and the environment to be sustainable through a changing climate.

Basin officials are working to develop a package to deliver the Basin Plan in full and will report back to the Ministerial Council's next meeting. Consideration of potential social and economic impacts will be an important part of the process.

I note your concerns about environmental issues impacting the Basin. The government is working with Basin states to consider and address many of these issues. For example, the government is investigating a long-term biological control plan to reduce the impacts of carp on our waterways. You can read more about carp control at [agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/pest-animals-and-weeds/national-carp-control-plan](https://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/pest-animals-and-weeds/national-carp-control-plan). It's also important to note that delivering the Basin Plan in full will improve the operability, connectivity, and overall environmental health of the system, which will help to manage some of the issues you raised.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Australian Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

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A/g Branch Head  
Basins Policy, Science and Indigenous Water  
Water Division

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**DCCEEW.gov.au**

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