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09.02.12

Andrew Barr MLA

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Meredith Hunter MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water

ACT Legislative Assembly

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms ~~Hunter~~ ^{Meredith}

I am writing to clarify an answer Minister Corbell gave to a question from you as Chair of the above Committee at the 1 December 2011 Annual and Financial Report hearings for the then Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water. The question was in relation to the review of *Think water, Act water*, the ACT Government's water conservation strategy.

As indicated to the Standing Committee, the review is being conducted in stages. These stages being:

- review and analysis of the *Think water, act water* Implementation Plan (Progress Report) to determine the performance outcomes of the current strategy;
- evaluation of existing strategic objectives, water saving targets and water reuse targets – this will determine where the ACT needs to be in an agreed policy timeframe in the context of water availability relative to projected climate change, levels of water use, infrastructure development and projected population growth; and
- the development of a revised strategy with an integrated approach to water planning and management, outlining measures to be put in place to enable strategic objectives to be realised within the agreed policy timeframe.

An independent assessment of the progress and performance of the strategy has been undertaken. This work is guiding the development of a revised strategy.

The revised strategy will also take into account recent local developments, updated research and any improved modelling, as well as external policy development and influencing factors such as the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, the National Water Initiative Agreement and COAG water reforms.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0000 Fax (02) 6205 0535 Email corbell@act.gov.au

The review of the strategy will be finalised once the Murray Darling Basin Plan is finalised. This will allow the Government to accurately factor in the targets in order to achieve the set Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL). The need to factor in the SDL means the review will be completed in mid 2012 rather than the end of 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andrew Barr MLA

A/g Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

23 DEC 2011