

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Weekly Brief Template – 08/03/2021

Section	Updated by /Cleared by(initials)	Date	Ensure EGM raises key issues with Geoffrey Rutledge before adding Y/N
Conservation Research and Evaluation	RC		
Conservation Policy and Planning	JL		
Environment Protection Policy	DW		
Resilient Landscapes	CG		
ACT Heritage	EJ		
PCS	DI		
Conservator Liaison	MW		

Section 2 contains items that were provided to the Minister and for your reference only. Please ***do not*** add new items to this section.

Section 1 - Please add new topics in this page (Section 1)

PLEASE NOTE INPUT MAY NEED TO BE LISTED MULTIPLE TIMES IF IT RELATES TO MULTIPLE PORTFOLIOS – PLEASE LIST UNDER EACH PORTFOLIO

Out of scope

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Minister Rattenbury - Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Water)

Federal Financial Agreement (Murray Darling)

- In September 2020 Minister Pitt announced the Communities Investment Package (CIP), which included \$60 million for Basin States to accelerate efforts to implement the Basin Plan and associated water reforms over 2021-24. The \$60 million in a Federation Funding Agreement (FFA) will need to: (a) align with and build on the Principles for collective action to improve Basin Plan outcomes agreed by MinCo 27 in November 2020 (b) reflect to the extent possible current and emerging Basin priorities, including findings from recent reviews such as the Sefton Review and the ACCC report (c) reflect to the extent possible activities proposed by Basin States to support their ongoing implementation of water reform as proposed at BOC meeting 72 – 30 April 2020 (d) ensure activities are not funded under current or previous agreements and could not reasonably be considered BAU
ACT officials are working closely with the Commonwealth to secure investment that is proportionate and risk based.

Section 2 – DO NOT add new items to this section - add them in Section 1 – this section contains items that were provided to the Minister the previous week and is for your reference only

Out of scope

- The Waterwatch annual report card is called the Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) report, is being finalised. It is based upon the data collected by volunteers throughout the preceding year across 232 sites. The purpose of the report is to give the community a better understanding of water quality and riparian health issues in the catchment as well as providing an ongoing baseline assessment of catchment health, to assist natural resource managers and policy-makers in addressing some of these issues. The 2020 CHIP report is based upon 1,872 water quality surveys, 184 waterbug surveys and 219 riparian condition surveys conducted by over 200 volunteers. The report will be launch on World Water Day, 22 March 2021.

Out of scope

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- The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (AWE) is collecting data from State and Territory heritage and parks agencies for the State of the Environment Report 2021 (SOE), as required under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act), for the 2016-2020 period specifically relating heritage and conservation estate. EPSDD is providing input as part of our routine engagement with the commonwealth. The SOE report is an independent evaluation of the state of the Australian environment.

Minister Rattenbury - Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Water)

- NSW is threatening to withdraw four Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism projects as the Commonwealth aren't considering 'a more flexible approach' to the agreed 30 June 2024 program end date. MDB. The BOC item on the Inspector-General of Water Compliance was withdrawn from the Basin Officials Committee 23 February agenda at the last minute and will be provided to Principals only. The Commonwealth haven't recirculated amendments since the last BOCP discussion. EPSDD is meeting with the Inspector General on the 5th March.
- The Waterwatch annual report card is called the Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) report, is being finalised. It is based upon the data collected by volunteers throughout the preceding year across 232 sites. The purpose of the report is to give the community a better understanding of water quality and riparian health issues in the catchment as well as providing an ongoing baseline assessment of catchment health, to assist natural resource managers and policy-makers in addressing some of these issues. The 2020 CHIP report is based upon 1,872 water quality surveys, 184 waterbug surveys and 219 riparian condition surveys conducted by over 200 volunteers. The report will be launch on World Water Day, 22 March 2021.