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It is essential that Commonwealth Water Act includes the following key objectives • managing the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) in the national interest; • ensuring the return of water extraction to environmentally sustainable levels, • protecting, restoring and providing for the ecological values and ecosystem services of the MDB • giving effect to international agreements (such as the Ramsar Convention on wetlands); and • managing water resources in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Stephen Wood