

# Terms of reference - first Water for the Environment Special Account review

- 1) Section 86AJ of the Water Act 2007 (the Act) requires that the Minister for Water Resources must cause two independent reviews to be conducted into the Water for the Environment Special Account (WESA) provided for by Part 2AA of the Act. This document sets out the review panel's terms of reference for the first of these reviews.
- 2) The review panel must conduct a review into whether the amount standing to the credit of, and to be credited to, the WESA is sufficient to:
  - a) increase, by 30 June 2024, the volume of the Basin water resources that is available for environmental use by 450 GL; and
  - b) ease or remove constraints identified by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on the capacity to deliver environmental water to the environmental assets of the Murray–Darling Basin (Basin).
- 3) In conducting this review, the panel must also consider:
  - a) the progress that has been, and is anticipated to be, made towards increasing the volume of the Basin water resources that is available for environmental use, and
  - b) whether the design of projects in relation to which payments have been made under section 86AD is likely to be effective in increasing the volume by 450 GL of the Basin water resources that is available for environmental use.
- 4) In addition, the panel may undertake consultations to inform the review, which may include invitation for submissions, discussions with a range of stakeholders, meetings with peak bodies and engagement with all Basin States.
- 5) The panel to provide the Minister a written report of the first review by early 2020.