

Information to support your submission

Discussion Paper Feedback Questions

A guide for GMW customers

The MDBA submission portal includes three feedback questions. The prompts below are designed to help you think through your own response. There are no right or wrong answers, your personal experience and perspective are what matter most. We have also included some key facts you may find useful to reference.

Key facts you can use

Feel free to reference any of these figures in your own words:

- Irrigated agriculture in Northern Victoria generates \$3.2 billion every year and supports tens of thousands of regional jobs
- Without strategic safeguards, irrigation costs in our region are projected to rise by 10–15%
- The Connections Project and the Water Efficiency Project returned more than 295 GL of water to the environment, without relying on buybacks from irrigators.
- There are other options to achieve environmental outcomes without further non-strategic water buybacks such as the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP). The VMFRP projects use targeted infrastructure and operational measures to make the most of the environmental water already recovered.
- Our local rivers have their own environmental and community value beyond their role in the broader Basin system

Question 1: What do you think of the issues and options presented in the Basin Plan Review Discussion Paper?

To help you think about your response:

- What has water management in this region meant for you personally, on your farm, in your town, or in your daily life?
- What has changed in your community or district in recent years that you think the review should understand?
- Is there anything in the Discussion Paper that you welcome, or anything that concerns you?

Question 2: Are there other issues and options that should be considered?

To help you think about your response:

- What do you feel is missing from the conversation about water in our region?

- Are there impacts on your community, your industry, or your local environment that you think are not being fully recognised?
- What would a fair and balanced approach look like to you?

Question 3: What do you see as the priorities and why?

To help you think about your response:

- What matters most to you when it comes to how water is managed in this region?
- What would you most want the next Basin Plan to protect or deliver for your farm, your family, your business, or your community?
- If you could change one thing about how water decisions are made, what would it be?