



Ms Kate Chipperfield

Dear Ms Chipperfield

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP concerning your research into water governance in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB). Minister Plibersek has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on her behalf.

Congratulations on the publication of your paper into the governance of MDB and your recommendations for governance reform. As you identified, the governance of the MDB is complex and good governance is critical to the effective response of the many current and future challenges of water management.

I note that your suggested governance reforms involve amendments to the Water Act 2007. Before the end of 2024, the Government will be conducting a Water Act review, examining the operation of the Act and the extent to which its objects have been achieved. I encourage you to make a submission to the review outlining your suggested governance reforms.

I also note your concerns on the effectiveness of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) and advise that the Government has committed to a review of this role.

Thank you again for bringing your research to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Emma Solomon  
A/Branch Head  
Policy Reform