



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for New England**

Ref: MC17-004010

16 JUN 2017

Dr Anne Jensen

Via email:

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 May 2017 to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcom Turnbull MP, regarding the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (the Basin Plan). Your letter was forwarded to me as I am the Minister responsible for the matters you raised.

The Australian Government remains committed to managing Basin water resources and implementing the environmental obligations of the Basin Plan in ways that ensure the best possible social and economic outcomes for all Basin industries and communities.

Our commitment is demonstrated by the Government's decision to make the progress of the Basin Plan a standing item at meetings of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the establishment of a special estimates process that will enable increased Senate scrutiny on Basin Plan implementation.

At the most recent COAG meeting on 9 June 2017, Murray Darling Basin First Ministers confirmed their commitment to the Murray Darling Basin Plan and welcomed the COAG plan for delivering the Basin Plan package developed by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council. The plan can be found at mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/mr/Report-by-Minco-implementing-the-Basin-Plan.pdf.

I will continue to work collaboratively with the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council to meet this mutual commitment to implement the Basin Plan.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Barnaby Joyce MP