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Hon Troy Grant
Inspector-General of Water Compliance
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: igwc@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Mr Grant

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Regulatory Policy Discussion Paper and the framework and principles you will use to guide the development of the Regulatory Policy. I apologise for the delay in my response.

South Australia strongly supports the statutory role of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance to deliver trust and transparency around the management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources.

To avoid unnecessary duplication, reduce legal risk and provide transparency and clarity to stakeholders, it is crucial that the roles and responsibilities of the Inspector-General, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and respective Basin governments are well understood.

The Regulatory Policy Discussion Paper is a good first step in defining the split in roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and Basin States and is well aligned with the Australian Government's Regulator Performance Guide's principles of regulator best practice. However, the document could benefit from further clarity on the Inspector-General's role in relation to the compliance of agencies or licence holders with state-based laws and rules.

The Department for Environment and Water looks forward to engaging with the Office of the Inspector General in the development of the draft regulatory policy and is available to provide information and advice on the implementation of the Basin Plan, relevant legislation and water compliance in South Australia.

If your staff wish to discuss this submission or engage further with the Department for Environment and Water as they develop the draft regulatory policy, they should contact Mr Josh Kaplan, Manager, Murray-Darling Basin and Intergovernmental on email: Joshua.Kaplan2@sa.gov.au or 0401 120 873.

Yours sincerely,

BEN BRUCE

Executive Director, Water and River Murray
South Australia's Basin Officials Committee Member
Department for Environment and Water

23/04/2023