



# Five yearly report card of Basin Plan implementation

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# Community questions so far

- What are you going to do about the effects on communities?
- Are sustainable diversion limits going to be changed through the 2017 Evaluation?
- What about the 450 'up-water'?
- Is this the same approach as the Northern Basin Review?
- Which communities will the socioeconomic research be looking at?
- Why and how is environmental water used?
- What are the outcomes from environmental watering?
- Is this just MDBA marking its own homework?

# Purpose

To inform and improve remaining Basin Plan implementation by:

## 1. Taking stock

- Are we on track with implementing the programs and mechanisms in the Plan?

## 2. Evaluate outcomes to date

- Are the outcomes in line with what we would expect to see 5 years on?
- Are there any unexpected outcomes i.e. benefits or impacts?
- Is it too soon to tell?

## 3. Identify where Basin Plan implementation can be improved

- Are there things we can change in the way we are implementing the Plan to get even better outcomes for the environment and Basin communities?



# Scope

Long-term outcomes to be assessed against outcomes expected to 2017

Healthy and resilient rivers, wetlands and floodplains

Productive and resilient industries, and confident communities

Improving water management

We are part way through implementation - opportunity to assess success to date and potential improvements



# Breadth of social and economic outcomes

## Scope of outcomes being considered:

- **Benefits**                      Both measurable and hard to measure                      eg. tourism, recreational fishing, amenity and social/cultural
- **Costs**                              Irrigation community impacts                      eg. Impacts on irrigated area, population, employment, wellbeing etc

### Isolate the impact of the BP from other drivers of change

- **Unanticipated outcomes**                      Revealed through above – could be benefits or negative impacts                      e.g. inconsistency with outcomes anticipated in the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS)

## Evaluating implementation from a social and economic perspective

- *What has been done? What were the outcomes?*

Level of analysis	Crucial Datasets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basin and regional (catchment) scale</li> <li>• Industry insights</li> <li>• Irrigation companies</li> <li>• Around 30 local communities</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Composition of water recovery           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-farm</li> <li>• Off-farm</li> <li>• Buybacks</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Water use, trade and carryover</li> <li>3. Irrigated area</li> <li>4. Long run trends affecting MDB communities</li> <li>5. Local knowledge to explain big changes or unexpected results</li> </ol>

# Approach to evaluation of social and economic outcomes

## Comparative/demographic analysis

### 1. Basin/region/industry costs (impacts on irrigation communities)

ABS agricultural and population census and survey data; ABARES commodity price and production data; ABARE farm surveys data; Water use, trade and carryover data from IIOs and Water Registers; Regional wellbeing survey

### 2. Basin/region benefits (non-consumptive/amenity etc)

Tourism Australia survey data; Regional wellbeing survey; Recreational fishing industry survey data; CSIRO ecosystem services research



# Approach to evaluation of social and economic outcomes

## Local community analysis

### 1. Impacts on irrigation communities

Community level information on water recovery, water use, trade and carryover, and irrigated area; Relationship with local employment in agriculture and ag-services

### 2. Other socio-demographic information on long term trends and current state

ABS agricultural and population census data (mainly socio-demographic characteristics)



# Approach to understanding outcomes for Aboriginal people – key questions

- Sociocultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people?
- Effectiveness of Aboriginal participation in Basin scale and state water planning and management, particularly in relation to water resource planning and environmental water planning?
- How can Aboriginal involvement in water planning and management be improved?



Australian Government



# Evaluating implementation of environmental programs and mechanisms

Long-term watering plans

Annual watering priorities

Strategies for maximising outcomes

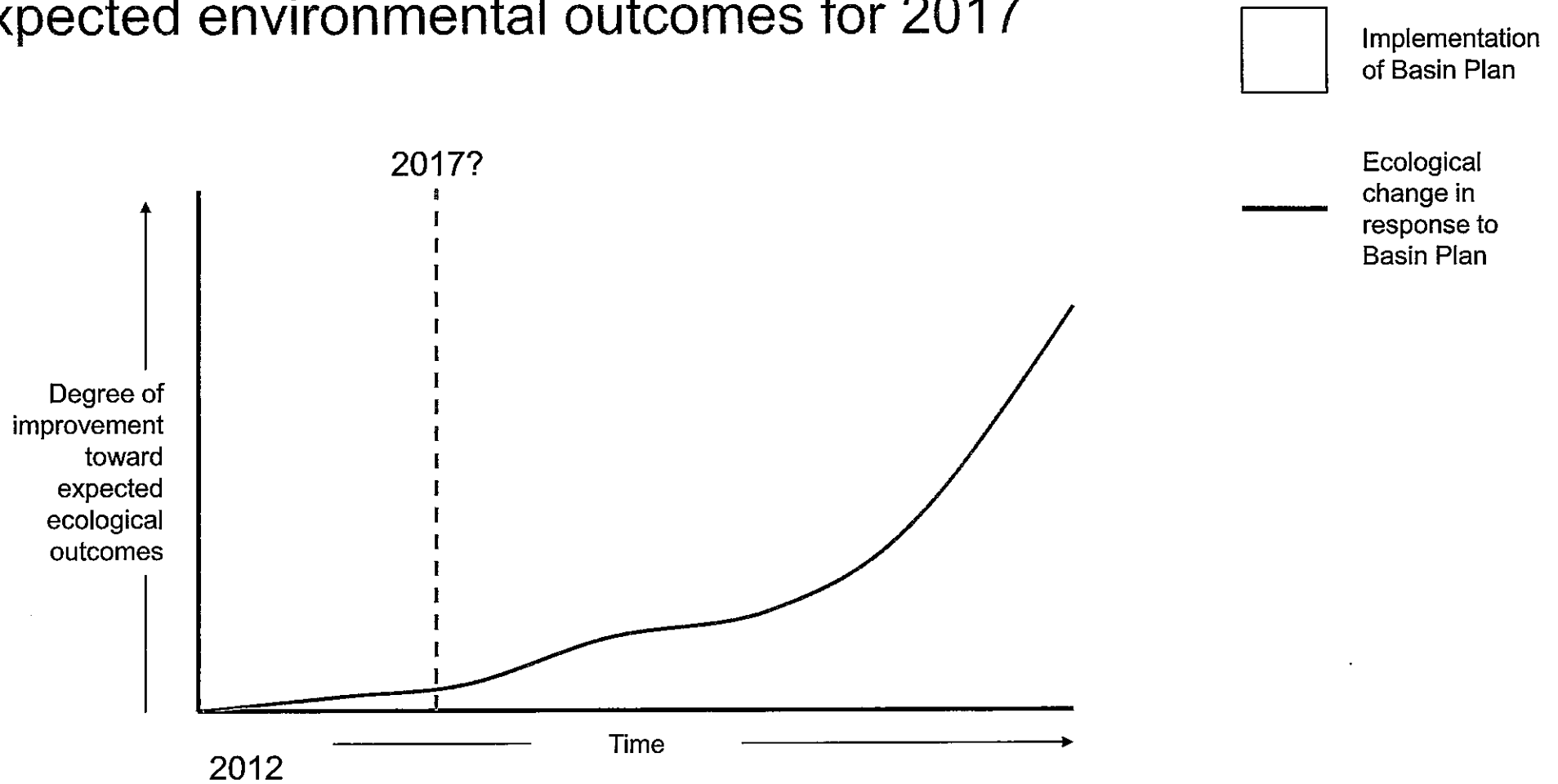
Coordination of watering



Australian Government



# Evaluating environmental outcomes to date – expected environmental outcomes for 2017



# Evaluating environmental outcomes to date – expected environmental outcomes for 2017

## The Basin-wide environmental watering strategy

1. River flows and connectivity

Water recovered to allow for some improvement in flows and connectivity

2. Native vegetation

Maintain extent and condition

3. Waterbirds

Maintain species diversity, abundance and breeding events.

4. Native fish

Maintain populations, distribution and movement opportunities



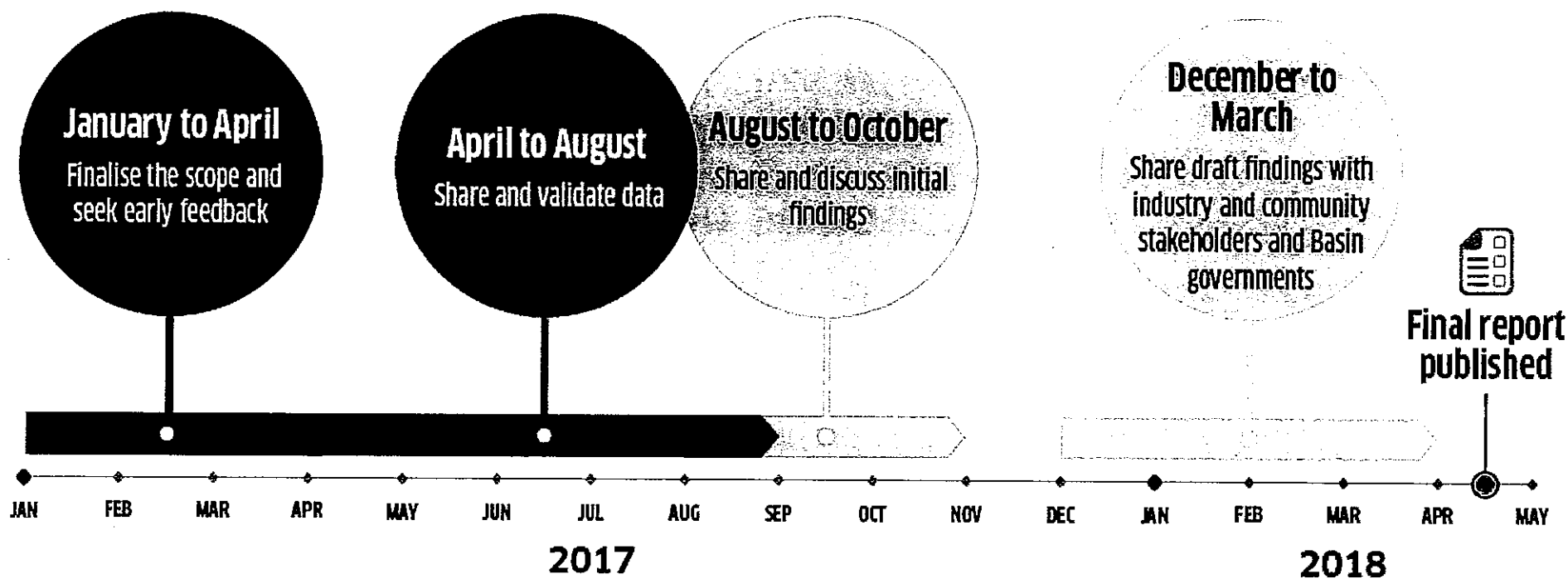
# Improved implementation of the Basin Plan

The evaluation will help us improve the implementation of the Basin Plan by telling us:

- The current condition of vegetation, waterbirds and fish in the Basin,
- Whether Basin Plan actions are resulting in opportunities for improvement, and
- What we need to do to ensure we achieve environmental outcomes.



# A phased engagement approach



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