



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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WATER BILL PAVES THE WAY FOR IMPROVED SERVICES

Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water Niall Blair today introduced the *Water NSW Amendment (Staff Transfers) Bill* to Parliament, which will pave the way for improved delivery of water management and services right across NSW.

“The NSW Government has already initiated extensive reform to look at how we can better service the state’s \$3.5 billion irrigated agriculture sector and improve how we manage critical water resources,” Mr Blair said.

“We’ve put water users at the centre of these reforms – creating the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water) and Water NSW – and looked closely at which functions and activities are best delivered by each of those entities.

“This Bill is the next stage of these reforms, putting both DPI Water and Water NSW on a sustainable footing to deliver an improvement of services provided to customers, along with the removal of duplication and inefficiencies.”

The Bill facilitates the implementation of the transfer of functions to enable DPI Water to have a sharpened focus on policy, and water market regulation, with oversight of major water infrastructure projects.

WaterNSW will focus on delivering quality water, all customer transactional dealings and all in-field services relating to groundwater and surface water.

The reforms are consistent with NSW’s commitments under the National Water Initiative and will improve the transparency and management of an effective water market in NSW.

This Bill will allow DPI Water to focus on overseeing government funded-infrastructure, representing NSW’s interest at the national level – including implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan – and getting the best deal for NSW.

Last month we saw the value of this work – securing a historic agreement at the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council, including agreement for a more flexible and adaptive approach to achieving sustainable diversion limits.

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