



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 17 March 2017

NSW STANDS FIRM FOR BASIN COMMUNITIES AT MINCO

NSW Minister for Regional Water, Niall Blair reiterated to the Ministerial Council that NSW would continue putting NSW regions front and centre in the delivery of the Basin Plan.

“An outcome that ensures prosperous NSW Basin Communities into the future, is always the stance that would be taken to MinCo,” Mr Blair said.

“Importantly, today in Mildura, the Ministerial Council agreed on a credible path forward -this is a positive step and the task now is to speak with people in the NSW Basin about how best to achieve it.

“Our review of the social and economic risks associated with further water recovery was a key discussion point and Ministerial Council acknowledged the need to prevent further economic decline.

“The approach to the 450 gigalitre upwater program must incorporate broader economic impacts beyond the farm gate – to the processing plant and logistics company, and all other businesses that rely on them.

“The joint work we have done with Victoria to review of the SDL adjustment mechanism also informed the discussion today, and confirms the fact that models inform decisions but they don’t make the tough decisions for us.

“The review also showed that while the Basin Plan seeks to establish an adaptive management framework to optimise environmental outcomes, our approach so far has not lived up to this, and it was very promising to re-inject these principles in agreements at Ministerial Council today.

“It was fantastic to hear from a range of stakeholders at the roundtable discussion and I thank all those who travelled a long way to contribute to this event.”

NSW is committed to managing its water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin sustainably by balancing the requirements of industry, communities and the environment to achieve these outcomes.

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