

Information Publication Scheme (IPS) Agency Plan

March 2025

Introduction

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (**MDBA**) is an agency subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (**FOI Act**) and is required to comply with the Information Publication Scheme (**IPS**) requirements. This agency plan describes how the MDBA does this, as required by section 8(1) of the FOI Act.

The MDBA is an independent statutory agency established by the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) (**Water Act**) and is part of the climate change, energy, environment and water portfolio. The MDBA's functions are set out in the Water Act.

The MDBA will continue to build and foster a culture within the agency in which appropriate proactive disclosure of its information holdings is embraced, leading to successful implementation and administration of the IPS. This recognises that public sector information is a national resource managed for public purposes.

Purpose

The purpose of this agency plan is to:

- assist the MDBA in planning, developing and maintaining its IPS entry;
- show what information the MDBA will publish (referred to as the IPS information holdings);
- show how the information will be published; and
- show how the MDBA will otherwise comply with the IPS requirements (section 8(1) of the FOI Act).

The plan outlines appropriate mechanisms and procedures to:

- manage the agency's IPS information holdings;

- proactively identify and publish all information required to be published (section 8(2) of the FOI Act);
- proactively identify and publish any optional information to be published (section 8(4) of the FOI Act);
- regularly review the information published under the IPS to ensure it is accurate, up to date and complete (section 8B of the FOI Act);
- comply with the *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Version 2.2)* (WCAG 2.2);
- ensure consistency with other whole of government information policies, including the *Intellectual property principles for Commonwealth entities* (updated in June 2018); and
- adopt best practice initiatives in implementing and administering the MDBA's contribution to the IPS.

Administering the agency's IPS entry

The Water Act identifies a series of information related functions for the MDBA. These include to measure, monitor, record, collect, analyse, and interpret information on water quality, quantity, and the condition of water-dependent ecosystems; and to disseminate information and engage with the Australian community (section 172). The also has a range of functions under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (section 18E) in connection with river operations, management of RMO assets and supporting the work of the joint venture.

Accordingly, both as a matter of policy and statutory requirement, the MDBA seeks to make its information holdings available to the public as widely and readily as possible through publication on the agency website.

The Chief Operating Officer, Business Services is responsible for leading the MDBA's compliance with the IPS, supported by the FOI team.

Compliance with the IPS will be reviewed by the FOI team on an annual basis.

Charges for access to documents under the IPS

The MDBA may charge a person for accessing any IPS document which it is impracticable to publish online:

- at the lowest reasonable cost; and
- to reimburse specific reproduction costs or other specific incidental costs (section 8D(4) of the FOI Act).

If any IPS documents are impracticable to publish online, the MDBA will publish references to these documents. The website will state that a person seeking access to these documents may use the [Contact us](#) page to arrange access.

The MDBA may impose a charge for accessing documents in circumstances where they are not available from the agency website (or another website) and there is a reproduction or other incidental cost. In such cases any charge will be consistent with those in the [Freedom of Information \(Charges\) Regulations 2019](#) (which generally apply to access requests under Part III of the FOI Act). **Annexure A** provides an indicative list of the charges for access to documents in these circumstances.

Structure of the IPS

The MDBA's IPS information holdings will be published on its website [Information Publication Scheme | Murray–Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#).

A link to the IPS page is available on the [Accountability and reporting](#) page and the [Freedom of Information](#) page.

The MDBA website is designed to be WCAG 2.2 compliant.

The MDBA welcomes feedback on all of its services including the IPS. Any comments or queries about the IPS can be submitted to the MDBA via the [Contact Us](#) page.

Information required to be published under the IPS

The MDBA's IPS information holdings will be published under the following headings:

- **Agency plan**
- **About us:** this includes an organisation chart, details of Authority members, statutory appointees, Executive members, and governance arrangements.
- **What we do:** outlines the roles and responsibilities and main functions of the MDBA. This section includes a link to information about how the MDBA collaborates and consults with members of the public on policy proposals for which the MDBA is responsible.
- **How we do it:** includes information about the main programs administered by the MDBA including the implementation of the *Basin Plan 2012* (Cth), managing constraints, environmental watering priorities, the Living Murray Program, and river information such as live river data, planned river operations, and water storage levels.
- **Corporate documents:** includes the MDBA's corporate plan, annual reports and other information tabled in Parliament. It also includes portfolio budget statements, files list, material supporting our position on fraud, corruption and integrity issues, and information relating to tenders, procurement and grants.

Information on how to access documents released in response to a request for access to information under the FOI Act is available on the MDBA's [FOI web page](#).

Other information to be published under the IPS

The MDBA uses maps and spatial data, including remote sensing data, to support its various programs and projects. This includes data on hydrology, biota, terrain, vegetation, geology and important built and natural assets. Subject to licensing provisions and any practical restrictions these holdings will be published on the website under [Publications and data](#).

IPS compliance review

The MDBA will monitor the guidelines about IPS compliance issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**). Operation of the MDBA's IPS and this agency plan will be reviewed (and in the case of the agency plan, revised where appropriate), annually.

Factors taken into account in reviewing the MDBA's performance will be the extent to which information is published in accordance with IPS requirements and the specific categories of holdings identified in this agency plan. Any feedback provided by the public, either by way of comment or queries, will also be taken into account.

Annexure A

Access charges for documents not available on the website

Format	Charges
Photocopy	10 cents per page
Copy (other than photocopy i.e. transcript)	\$4.40 per page
Copy of the document in the form of a computer tape or a computer disk	An amount not exceeding the actual costs incurred by the MDBA in producing the copy
Copy of the document to be sent to by post or delivered to the applicant	An amount not exceeding the cost of postage or delivery

End of document

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