

Water Resource Plan

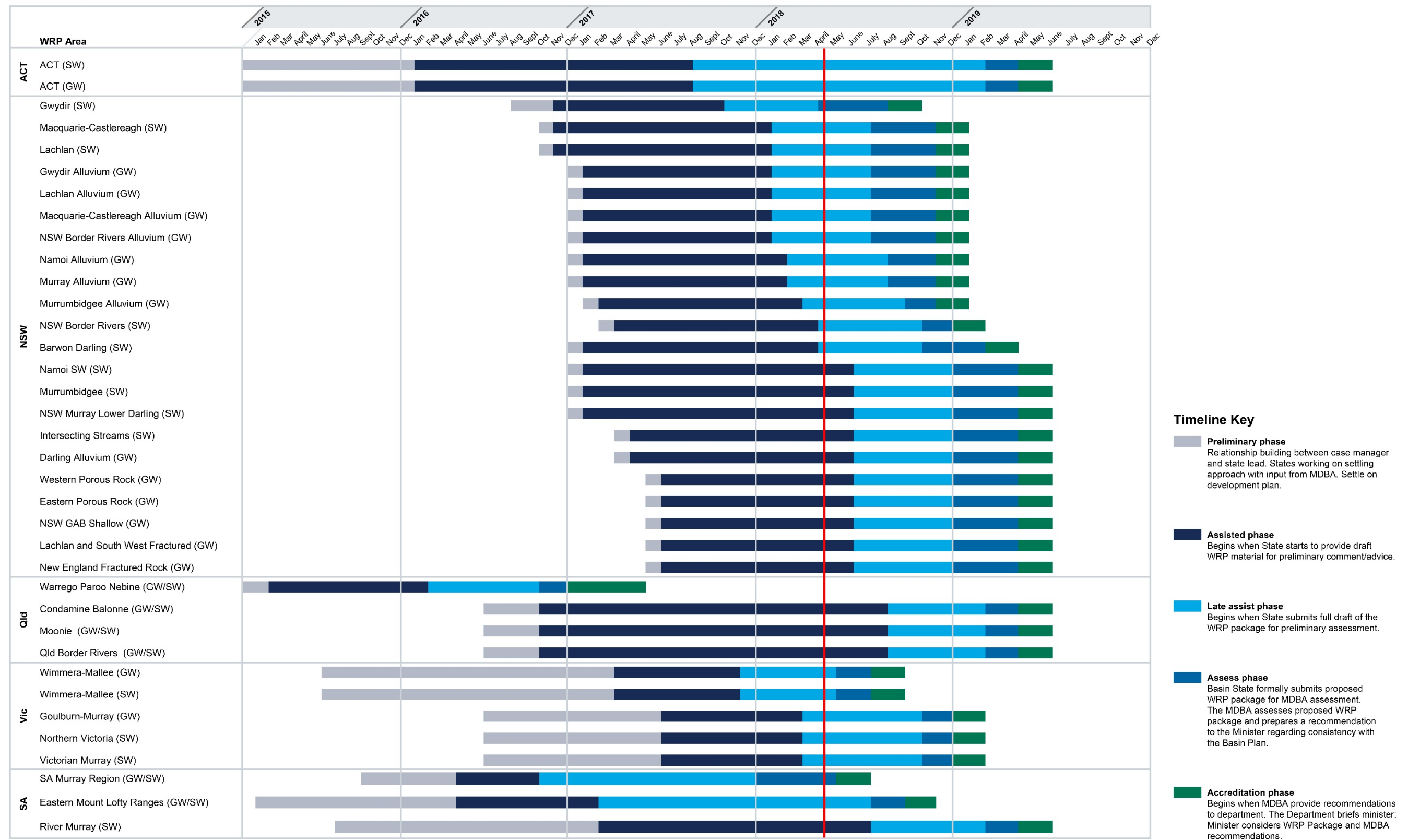
Quarterly report

May 2018

Under the Basin Plan, all water resource plans (WRPs) must be accredited by mid-2019. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is working with Basin states to support the development of states’ water resource plans and ensure the plans will be accredited on time.

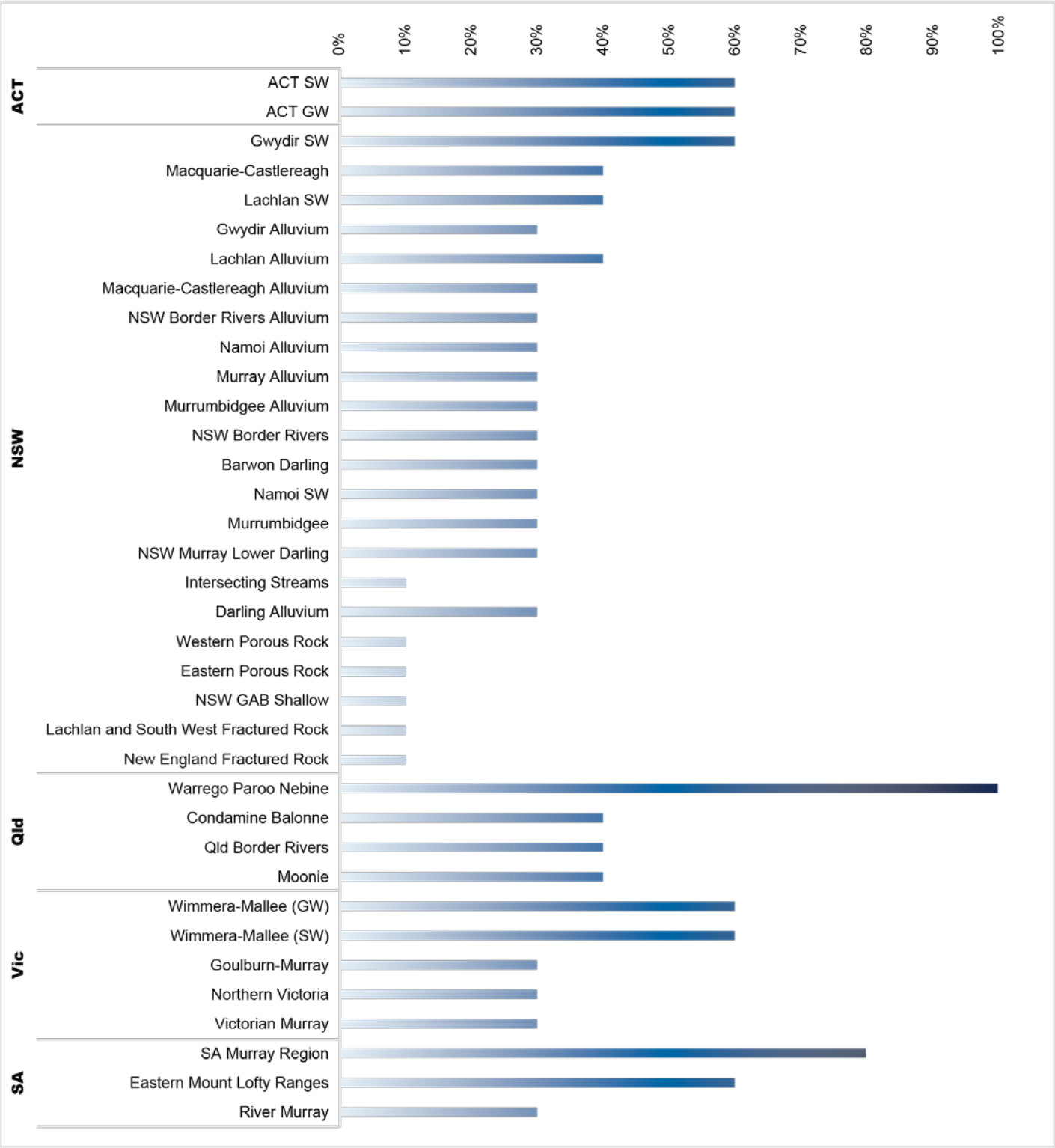
For more information about the water resource plan process and accreditation, visit mdba.gov.au

Water resource plan timeframes



Progress of water resource plans from development to accreditation

Progress of WRPs — May 2018



SW = surface water GW = groundwater

| % Complete | Stage of WRP Development |
|------------|--|
| 0% | Development not yet begun |
| 10% | Preliminary planning begun |
| 20% | Development of plan started |
| 30% | Some early draft material available to the MDBA for review |
| 40–60% | Progress in developing draft material, providing to the MDBA for review, and updating draft material |
| 70% | Complete set of draft material available to the MDBA for review |
| 80% | Final plan submitted to the MDBA for assessment |
| 90% | MDBA recommendation provided to the Minister |
| 100% | Plan accredited |

State-by-state progress development report

The following progress commentary is based on the timetable in the Water Resource Plan Timeframes diagram.

Queensland

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|--|--|
| Qld | 1 plan accredited 3 plans under development | <p>Queensland is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet timeframes for remaining plans.</p> <p>On 11 April 2018, Queensland released draft statutory water plans and supporting documents for stakeholder consultation, including a formal submission period through to 1 June 2018. Draft Healthy Waters Management Plans were also released in April for consultation.</p> <p>Key milestones include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• resolving any remaining accreditation issues by early June 2018 that directly relate to the statutory Water Plans and Healthy Waters Management Plans• progressive submission and review of the WRP indexes and supporting documents through to 'close to complete' draft WRP submitted, by the end of October 2018• final WRPs ready for assessment by March 2019. <p>The MDBA met with Queensland earlier in April 2018 to clarify and confirm the timeframes for the completion and preliminary review of the different elements of the WRP packages for the remaining Plans. The MDBA is continuing to work with Queensland on the progressive development of the WRP material.</p> |

New South Wales

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|----------------------------|---|
| NSW | 22 plans under development | <p>New South Wales is reporting delays in progress against three of its nine surface water WRPs, and four of its 13 groundwater WRPs.</p> <p>NSW continues to invest substantial effort in water planning and is making progress.</p> <p>The MDBA and NSW continue to work collaboratively to progress WRPs, including regular workshops and teleconferences to resolve issues and keep track of progress. However, time remaining to develop and accredit water resource plans is limited and the MDBA remains concerned about the large volume of work that needs to be completed.</p> <p>NSW intends to release its two pilot WRPs for public exhibition in the coming months. To support this, the MDBA is progressively reviewing and providing feedback on components of these plans. Undertaking the assessments for the pilot surface water and groundwater plans will provide valuable insight into how NSW intend to address the full suite of WRP requirements, in remaining WRP areas.</p> <p>To further progress key policy issues, NSW intends to hold a second state-wide policy workshop for all Stakeholder Advisory Panels, in June 2018. As part of implementing their Water Reform Action Plan, NSW is conducting a community consultation process on a number of key policy areas including water take measurement and metering, and better management of environmental water.</p> |

Australian Capital Territory

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|---------------------------|--|
| ACT | 2 plans under development | <p>The Australian Capital Territory is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet planning timeframes.</p> <p>The Australian Capital Territory and the MDBA are working closely to update documents for the surface water WRP and the groundwater WRP.</p> <p>Relevant amendments to Australian Capital Territory instruments are scheduled to take place in 2018, ahead of incorporation into the draft WRPs in late 2018.</p> <p>The final WRPs are expected to be submitted to the MDBA in early 2019.</p> <p>Options for managing issues such as finalisation of the Australian Capital Territory Shared Reduction Amount and cross-border issues with New South Wales, are being progressed.</p> |

Victoria

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|---------------------------|--|
| Vic | 5 plans under development | <p>Victoria is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet planning timeframes. Victoria has completed a full second draft of the Wimmera-Mallee WRP (for Wimmera-Mallee surface water and groundwater area) and has been refining the draft plan. The MDBA continues to assess draft material. A number of gaps remain, however, a proactive work program is in place to resolve matters. Victoria and the MDBA are working toward having the plan accredited by mid-2018.</p> <p>The remaining Victorian WRP areas will be submitted as a single 'Northern Victoria' plan, with a full draft to be completed in consultation with the MDBA by the end of 2018, with the final submission in early 2019.</p> <p>Victoria has been working with the MDBA to resolve key policy issues as part of the development of the first WRP plan. While recent focus has been on the Wimmera-Mallee WRP, Victoria expects to deliver against the agreed timelines. Strategies to streamline the development and assessment of the remaining Victorian WRP are being discussed to ensure that it meets Basin Plan requirements and timelines.</p> |

South Australia

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|---------------------------|--|
| SA | 3 plans under development | <p>South Australia is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet planning timeframes.</p> <p>South Australia submitted its pilot WRP (South Australia Murray Region) for assessment and accreditation on 8 January 2018, and is working with the MDBA to progress the final stages.</p> <p>South Australia has developed the draft Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges WRP and continues to work with the MDBA as the assessment of the draft progresses.</p> <p>South Australia is working closely with the MDBA to finalise planning assumptions for the River Murray and has begun providing early draft material for review, for the River Murray WRP.</p> |

Key dates for finalising WRPs

| Date | WRP formally submitted by jurisdiction to MDBA for assessment | WRP formally submitted to Minister for accreditation |
|----------------------|---|--|
| December 2017 | SA Murray Region (GW/SW) | |
| April 2018 | Gwydir (SW) | |
| May 2018 | Wimmera Mallee (GW) Wimmera Mallee (SW) | SA Murray Region (GW/SW) |
| July 2018 | Macquarie-Castlereagh (SW) Lachlan (SW) Gwydir Alluvium Lachlan Alluvium Macquarie-Castlereagh Alluvium NSW Border Rivers Alluvium Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (GW/SW) | Wimmera Mallee (GW) Wimmera Mallee (SW) |
| August 2018 | Namoi Alluvium Murray Alluvium | Gwydir (SW) |
| Sept 2018 | Murrumbidgee Alluvium | Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (GW/SW) |
| Oct 2018 | NSW Border Rivers (SW) Barwon Darling (SW) Goulburn Murray (GW) Northern Victoria (SW) Victorian Murray (SW) | |
| Nov 2018 | | Macquarie-Castlereagh (SW) Lachlan (SW) Gwydir Alluvium Lachlan Alluvium Macquarie-Castlereagh Alluvium NSW Border Rivers Alluvium Namoi Alluvium Murray Alluvium Murrumbidgee Alluvium |
| Dec 2018 | Namoi (SW) Murrumbidgee (SW) NSW Murray Lower Darling (SW) Intersecting Streams (SW) Darling Alluvium Western Porous Rock Eastern Porous Rock NSW GAB Shallow Lachlan and South West Fractured Rock New England Fractured Rock | NSW Border Rivers (SW) Goulburn Murray (GW) Northern Victoria (SW) Victorian Murray (SW) |

| Date | WRP formally submitted by jurisdiction to MDBA for assessment | WRP formally submitted to Minister for accreditation |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Feb 2019 | ACT (SW) ACT(GW) Condamine Balonne (GW/SW) Moonie (GW/SW) Qld Border Rivers (GW/SW) River Murray (SW) | Barwon Darling (SW) |
| May 2019 | | ACT (SW) ACT(GW) Namoi (SW) Murrumbidgee (SW) NSW Murray Lower Darling (SW) Intersecting Streams (SW) Darling Alluvium Western Porous Rock Eastern Porous Rock NSW GAB Shallow Lachlan and South West Fractured Rock New England Fractured Rock Condamine Balonne (GW/SW) Moonie (GW/SW) Qld Border Rivers (GW/SW) River Murray (SW) |