



Useful contacts

For more information about your obligations under the water trading rules:

- visit the MDBA website for technical guidelines and factsheets
www.mdba.gov.au
- contact the MDBA engagement hotline on 1800 230 067
- email queries to watermarkets@mdba.gov.au

Notice

The provisions in the *Water Act 2007* and the *Basin Plan 2012* govern the water trading rules. All decisions regarding the water trading rules need to be made with reference to these laws. This publication is intended as guidance only and does not constitute legal advice. Users should seek their own legal advice where appropriate. Decisions in relation to the water trading rules will be based on the aforementioned laws. Reasonable care has been taken in the compilation of this publication, however the Murray-Darling Basin Authority does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, or completeness, or currency of its contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of or reliance on this publication.

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Basin Plan water trading rules – what to expect

Advice for irrigators and water traders

The Basin Plan water trading rules came into effect on 1 July 2014. They look to improve trading opportunities and ensure more information is available about the water market. The majority of rules apply to Basin states. There are also some rules that apply to the Commonwealth, irrigation infrastructure operators and individual traders.

What the rules mean for you

All traders have obligations about how they behave in the water market to ensure it operates fairly. For most people it will be business as usual.

Report the price of your trade

Reporting the sale price of a trade is compulsory. You should do this as part of your normal state trading process. Compulsory reporting means everyone can have access to better price information in order to understand the value of their water.

Do not trade if you are aware of sensitive water market information that is not yet public

You are restricted from trading when you know about the following types of water market sensitive information, before the information is made public:

- allocation announcements
- carryover announcements
- decisions by governments to lift or impose trade restrictions
- other water market announcements by Basin states or the Commonwealth.

What you can expect from your state

Basin states will continue to be responsible for trade, including processing trades and setting trade limits. Basin state contacts remain unchanged.

Under the water trading rules Basin states must:

- notify traders when they refuse a trade and explain their reasons — this helps people understand how trading works and why decisions have been made
- make all their water announcements publicly available
- provide the MDBA with information on state trading rules and the features of highly traded, regulated, surface water products

The MDBA publishes the information from Basin states on our website. Providing a central location to compare tradeable water rights means that people can make better investment decisions to suit their needs.

What you can expect from your irrigation infrastructure operator

Customers of irrigation infrastructure operators are entitled to up-to-date records of their irrigation and delivery rights.

Your operator is not permitted to unreasonably restrict the trade of delivery rights within your network. Where an operator restricts the trade of a delivery right, they must notify you and explain their reasons.

These rules make sure all members of every irrigation network have the same basic rights.

Making an allegation

The MDBA is responsible for regulating and enforcing the Basin Plan water trading rules. If you think the rules have been compromised, you can lodge a concern with us.

Examples of instances where a breach of the water trading rules may occur include:

- an irrigation infrastructure operator has unreasonably restricted trade of delivery rights within the network and/or has not provided reasons for the refusal of a trade
- a Basin state approval authority has unreasonably restricted trade and/or has not provided reasons for the refusal of a trade
- a person has traded water with knowledge of a water announcement that was not yet public.

Allegations can be made via:

- email to the Water Markets team watermarkets@mdba.gov.au
- mail to the MDBA, GPO Box 1801, Canberra 2601
- the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au)