

Schedule E

New South Wales Fish for the Future – Feasibility Activities

PROJECT SCHEDULE FOR NEW SOUTH WALES FISH FOR THE FUTURE

1. This Schedule has been developed consistent with the Project Agreement Delivery of Environmental Measures in Northern Murray-Darling Basin (the Agreement).
2. In accordance with the Agreement and this Schedule, the State of New South Wales (NSW) will undertake feasibility activities for the NSW Fish for the Future project.
3. The Commonwealth and NSW agree that NSW will develop feasibility proposals for consideration in the Northern Basin Toolkit prioritisation process, including investigating and identifying scalability options for projects where NSW wishes to have the Commonwealth consider the project for business case funding under the Toolkit. This may include for the following themes:
 - (a) Reconnecting the northern Basin — fish passage at 12 priority structures on the Barwon-Darling River and eight priority structures in the Border Rivers valley.
 - (b) Addressing cold water pollution — proposed works at Pindari Dam in the Border Rivers valley and Copeton Dam in the Gwydir valley;
 - (c) Fish-friendly water extraction — a strategic and targeted screening program stopping fish and debris entering pumps and diversions;
 - (d) Threatened species recovery — establishing a dedicated hatchery facility and strategic conservation stocking program specifically for threatened species to significantly assist in recovering extant populations and increase their area of occupancy; and
 - (e) Bringing back fish habitat — investigation of riparian and aquatic habitat rehabilitation activities, including revegetation and incorporates local Aboriginal engagement to work on-ground in a targeted and strategic way to improve priority aquatic habitat, and otherwise builds on but is distinguishable from the activities intended to be funded under the Fencing Northern Basin Riverbanks program.
4. In undertaking the above activities, NSW will ensure that any feasibility proposals provided to the Commonwealth for consideration includes sufficient information to enable the Commonwealth to make a sound and defensible decision on any future funding for the project, and in this respect, enable the following assessments to be undertaken:
 - (a) a prioritisation assessment using the Northern Basin Toolkit Ecological Prioritisation Framework, which was endorsed by the Basin Officials Committee in May 2019; and
 - (b) a value for money assessment.

5. In addition to the above activities, the Commonwealth and NSW agree that NSW will develop and submit ecological benefits realisation reports for each of the following themes of the Fish for the Future project:
 - (a) Reconnecting the northern Basin — Scoping activities, including condition assessment and validation of attributes for priority weirs, and additional assessment of sites on the Intersecting Streams, to help characterise the benefits of the theme and inform program justification and scope, estimated costs, expected triple-bottom line benefits, risks, technical feasibility, and program delivery plan that includes governance, project management, and monitoring and evaluation;
 - (b) Addressing cold water pollution — Scoping activities that include technical scoping and modelling studies, to quantify environmental benefits, and help outline program justification and scope, including priority sites, mitigation infrastructure and preliminary cost estimates; and
 - (c) Fish-friendly water extraction — Scoping activities to undertake native fish population modelling and scenario testing using data collected from various types of diversions to quantify environmental benefits from screening investment and establish screening investment 'hotspots' across the northern Basin.
6. NSW acknowledges that funding for activities under Clause 5 is provided on the understanding that completion of the activities will not delay NSW from delivering the relevant business case to the Commonwealth, should the relevant project progress to business case development.
7. NSW is expected to complete the feasibility activities, including the milestones specified in Table 1 in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 1.
8. If the Commonwealth decides to fund further business case development and activities, details of the development and milestones will be included in a separate bilateral schedule under the Agreement.
9. In accordance with the Agreement, milestones for projects, their relationship to outputs, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments are set out in Table 1 and are to be completed to the Commonwealth's reasonable satisfaction.
10. The Commonwealth and NSW also agree that the Commonwealth will provide a total financial contribution of up to \$3,105,000 GST exclusive for the activities under this Schedule and as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Milestones, reporting and payment summary

Outputs	Milestones	Milestone due	Payment
Governance arrangements in place	A report, including a work plan that provides evidence that management arrangements are in place to support producing outputs in accordance with this Schedule.	Within 10 business days of execution of the Agreement and this Schedule	\$621,000
Feasibility activities including development of final feasibility proposals	Feasibility proposals which contain sufficient information for proposal assessment and decision making including initial estimated costs for the development of any business case, initial estimated costs for project implementation and scalability options.	Within 8 weeks of the completion of the first milestone for this Schedule, or 31 July 2020, whichever is earlier	\$1,086,750
	A separate progress report on feasibility activities for all potential projects investigated and results of activities undertaken according to Clause 5.		
Other related activities – scoping activities for benefits realisation progress report	A separate report on scoping activities undertaken in accordance with this Schedule related to ecological benefits realisation activities outlined in Clause 5, which may be considered as part of the Commonwealth assessment and decision making.	30 September 2020	\$1,086,750
Other related activities – scoping activities for benefits realisation final report	A final progress report on scoping activities undertaken in accordance with this Schedule related to ecological benefits realisation activities outlined in Clause 5.	30 November 2020	\$310,500
Total			\$3,105,000

SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by

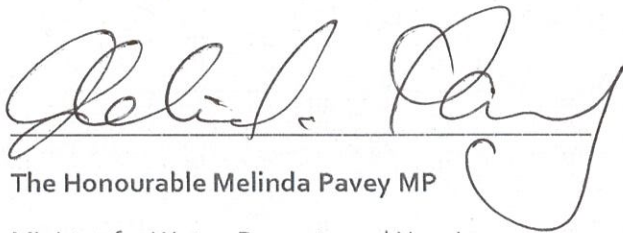


The Honourable Keith Pitt MP

Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia

Date: 20/4/20

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by



The Honourable Melinda Pavey MP

Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Date: 7-5-20