

# Murray–Darling Basin Telemetry Uplift Program

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

**Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule**

Parties	<p>The Commonwealth of Australia</p> <p>New South Wales</p> <p>Victoria</p> <p>Queensland</p>
Duration	<p>This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2027.</p>
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of the Murray–Darling Basin Telemetry Uplift Program (the Program).</p> <p>The program will increase the coverage of metering telemetry across the Murray–Darling Basin.</p> <p>Telemetry is an important tool for governments to quickly monitor water taken from the Basin. The data generated by these devices will improve compliance, improve oversight for the growing water market, and provide regulators and water users with timely information to manage water and rivers.</p> <p>Greater telemetry coverage is recommended in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Murray-Darling Basin Water Markets Inquiry</i>, which was published by the ACCC in 2021. Recommendation 17 refers.</li> <li>• The <i>Water Market Reform: Final Roadmap Report</i>, which was written by Daryl Quinlivan AO and delivered to the Australian Government in 2022. Recommendation 20 refers.</li> </ul>

<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the participating Basin States of up to \$22.6m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>However, this instrument will initially be limited to \$18.5 million and relate to agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW, Victoria, and Queensland. An agreement with South Australia is expected to follow. The ACT is not participating with the Program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(\$ million)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%;">2023-24</th> <th style="width: 10%;">2024-25</th> <th style="width: 10%;">2025-26</th> <th style="width: 10%;">2026-27</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Estimated total budget</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>0.7</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>8.0</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>7.4</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>2.4</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>18.5</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>- New South Wales</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.9</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>10.5</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Victoria</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.9</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>3.1</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Queensland</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>4.9</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total	<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>						- New South Wales	0.7	4.0	4.9	0.9	<b>10.5</b>	- Victoria	0.0	1.6	0.6	0.9	<b>3.1</b>	- Queensland	0.0	2.4	1.9	0.6	<b>4.9</b>	<i>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commonwealth funding is provided to improve the coverage of meter telemetry. Any savings made by participating States, and associated entities, in relation to the agreed project budget, is to be used to increase the number of telemetry devices which are installed by the State or its associated entities.</li>   <li>2. The Commonwealth will prepare an annual assessment report for publication on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water’s website. Participating Basin States will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the draft report before it is finalised and published.</li> </ol>																																										

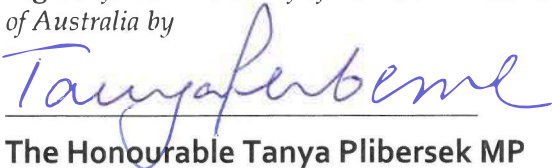
Table 2B: Victoria – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Output	Performance milestones	Milestone due	Payment
Note for all milestones: All evidence must be provided and agreed to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth before a payment is made to the jurisdiction.			
Milestone 1 –  Preparatory work	<p>Documentary evidence of the agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implementation (works) plan for the entire project</li> <li>governance arrangements, including establishment of Project Steering Committee.</li> </ul> <p>A report including the documentary evidence.</p>	15 working days after all parties sign this agreement	\$500,000
Milestone 2 - Year 2 work (to Q2 of 2024-2025)  Supply and installation of telemetry devices	A report demonstrating progress against the implementation plan and providing a budget update including evidence to show the count of telemetry devices which have been supplied and installed compared to the implementation plan.	31 October 2024	\$626,000
Milestone 3 - Year 2 work (to Q4 of 2024-2025)  Supply and installation of telemetry devices	A report demonstrating progress against the implementation plan and providing a budget update including evidence to show the count of telemetry devices which have been supplied and installed compared to the implementation plan.	30 April 2025	\$480,000
Milestone 4 - Year 3 work (to Q2 of 2025-2026)  a. Supply and installation of telemetry devices b. Mid-program review	<p>A report demonstrating progress against the implementation plan and providing a budget update including evidence to show the count of telemetry devices which have been supplied and installed compared to the implementation plan.</p> <p>Note: this Milestone 4 report is to include a formal mid-program evaluation of the scheduling, costs, and effectiveness of the implementation plan; and amendments (if any) that are needed</p>	31 October 2025	\$374,000

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	to ensure the full delivery of the agreed Program's deliverables.		
Milestone 5 - Year 3 work (to Q4 of 2025-2026)  Supply and installation of telemetry devices	A report demonstrating progress against the implementation plan and providing a budget update including evidence to show the count of telemetry devices which have been supplied and installed compared to the implementation plan.	30 April 2026	\$280,000
Milestone 6 – Year 4 work (to Q2 of 2026-2027)  Supply and installation of telemetry devices	A report demonstrating progress against the implementation plan and providing a budget update including evidence to show the count of telemetry devices which have been supplied and installed compared to the implementation plan	31 October 2026	\$438,000
Milestone 7 – Year 4 work (to Q4 of 2026-2027)  a. Finalise the supply and installation of telemetry devices and  b. Program finalisation and evaluation reports.	A final report demonstrating progress against the implementation plan including evidence to show the count of telemetry devices which have been supplied and installed compared to the implementation plan and a program evaluation report.  This report is also expected to evaluate how the State has delivered on the objectives described in its business case for funding.	31 March 2027	\$438,000

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

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



**The Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP**  
Minister for the Environment and Water  
[Day] [Month] [Year]

5 - 9 - 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by



**The Honourable Harriet Shing MLC**  
Minister for Water  
16 / 12 / 2024