

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan

What will be the impact of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan? The Crawford School Dialogue brings together a diverse range of experts to assess the recently released guidelines to the draft Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Each session will start with short presentations to stimulate discussion. The aim is to promote interaction between the presenters and the audience and between members of the audience. Presenters will later rewrite their presentations as chapters for inclusion in an electronic book to be distributed during the official public consultation period (expected to be early 2011). The e-Book will also include statements selected from material supplied by conference participants and from commentaries sent to the following website: www.globalwaterforum.org

PROGRAM

Friday 15 October 2010

9.00am Welcome: What Should We Expect from the Murray-Darling Basin Plan?

9.30am – 10.50am Economic Impacts

The Basin Plan will alter the division of water between irrigated agriculture and the environment, urban centres, Indigenous interests and critical human needs. What are the principles underpinning the new arrangements? How will they impact on the economy of the Murray-Darling Basin?

- Dr Donna Brennan, University of Western Australia
- Professor R. Quentin Grafton, Australian National University
- Professor John Quiggin, University of Queensland
- Professor Mike Young, University of Adelaide

10.50am – 11.10am Morning Tea/Coffee

11.10am – 12.30pm Environmental/Hydrological Implications

The Basin Plan is meant to protect the key ecological functions and preserve core environmental values. What are the key functions and how will they be maintained? In a world of difficult choices which environmental sites have been selected and why?

- Professor Max Finlayson, Charles Sturt University
- Karlene Maywald, former minister for the River Murray, South Australia
- Professor Richard Norris, University of Canberra
- Professor Ian White, Australian National University

12.30pm – 1.30pm Lunch

1.30pm – 3.00pm Communities

The Murray-Darling Basin is home to a very diverse range of communities. Water shapes their lives in many often imperceptible ways. How will they be affected by the Basin Plan?

- Dr Sue Jackson, Water for a Healthy Country Flagship CSIRO
- Professor Chris Miller, Flinders University
- Åsa Wahlquist, author, *Thirsty Country*

3.00pm – 4.30pm Governance and Management

The success of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan will depend on the water policy and management framework put in place to implement it. Development of that framework will largely be the responsibility of the states. How will the Water Act 2007 and the Basin Plan contribute to that process?

- Dr Daniel Connell, Australian National University
- Professor Douglas Fisher, Queensland University of Technology
- Mark Hamstead, Hamstead Consulting
- Professor Ray Ison, Monash University

4.30pm – 5.30pm Discussion and Refreshments

Venue:	Molonglo Theatre, Crawford School of Economics and Government, Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU Campus.
Cost:	\$100.00
Registration:	http://www.crawford.anu.edu.au/events/crawford_school_dialogue/ Seating is limited to 200.
Enquiries:	Henry Keenan (02) 6125 5559 henry.keenan@anu.edu.au

This is a draft program that may change depending on the contents of the draft Basin Plan, to be released 8 October.

Crawford School Dialogue

SPEAKERS

Dr Donna Brennan, School of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Western Australia

Donna is an independent consultant and holds an adjunct Senior Lecturer position at the University of Western Australia as well as an honorary position at the Crawford School. Previously she has worked at the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, the University of Sydney, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and CSIRO Land and Water. Her research focuses on water resource management, particularly in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Dr Daniel Connell, Crawford School, Australian National University

Daniel published *Water Politics in the Murray Darling Basin* in 2007 and now researches water management institutions and their response to climate variability in the federal political systems of Australia, South Africa, the United States, Europe, India and China.

Professor Max Finlayson, Director of the Institute of Land, Water and Society, Charles Sturt University

Max is a wetland ecologist with a strong interest in wetland management and communication. He is a past chair of the international Ramsar Wetland Convention's Scientific and Technical Review panel and continues to be involved with its work on wetlands and agriculture.

Professor Douglas Fisher, School of Law, Queensland University of Technology

Douglas teaches and researches environmental and natural resources law. His publications include *Australian Environmental Law* (2003), *Water Law* (2000) and an international comparative analysis, *The Law and Governance of Water Resources* (2010).

Professor R. Quentin Grafton, Crawford School, Australian National University

Quentin is Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for Water Economics, Environment and Policy at the Crawford School. In April 2010 he was appointed to hold the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Trans-boundary Water Governance.

Mark Hamstead, Mark Hamstead Consulting

Mark has had a long career working on environmental issues in New South Wales and nationally. More recently he has played a leading role in the preparation of major reports for the National Water Commission dealing with water planning and the implementation of the National Water Initiative.

Professor Ray Ison, Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University

Ray's research spans the biophysical and social disciplines (including organisations and institutions) and has been primarily interdisciplinary and collaborative in nature. His recent work includes research on 'social learning' and the implementation of the European Union's Water Framework Directive.

Dr Sue Jackson, Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, CSIRO

Sue's research focuses on Indigenous values relevant to water and the development of ways to incorporate them into contemporary water resource management frameworks such as the National Water Initiative.



Karlene Maywald, former Minister for the River Murray, South Australia

Karlene experienced first hand the tensions involved in the debate about how to implement environmentally sustainable river management when she was a National Party MP and a minister in the South Australian Labor Government (until March 2010).

Professor Chris Miller, interim Dean, School of Social and Policy Studies, Flinders University

Chris has extensive experience working and researching in communities experiencing the impacts of change. He recently led a team of researchers that worked with six communities in the Murray-Darling Basin to assess the impacts of climate change.

Professor Richard Norris, Director, Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra

Richard works on the biological assessment of rivers, including metal and coal mine effluents, heated water, agricultural effects, sewage effluents, siltation, environmental flows and predictive modelling. He played a central role developing Australia's National River Health Program and led the teams that undertook the Assessment of River Condition component of the first National Land and Water Resources Audit (2000) and the Snapshot of the Murray-Darling Basin River Condition (2001).

Professor John Quiggin, School of Economics, University of Queensland

John is an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science at the University of Queensland. He is prominent both as a research economist and as a commentator on Australian economic policy. He has published over 750 research articles, books and reports on topics such as unemployment policy, micro-economic reform, privatisation, competitive tendering and sustainable management of the Murray-Darling system.

Åsa Wahlquist, author, *Thirsty Country*

Åsa is an author and journalist with long experience covering water and rural issues when she was working for *The Australian* and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Her book documents the influence on water policy of politics, local agendas and vocal lobby groups.

Professor Ian White, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University

Ian focuses on the sustainable, integrated management of water and related land resources with emphasis on catchments and groundwater systems in Australia and elsewhere including low lying islands in Oceania threatened by climate change. He is also on the governing board of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands.

Professor Mike Young, Executive Director, Environment Institute, Adelaide University

Mike is one of the country's leading water policy experts with a particular focus on the Murray-Darling Basin. He has been awarded the Land and Water Australia Eureka Award for Water Research and a Centenary Medal for his contribution to environmental economics.

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