



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Legal Practice Section

26 July 2019

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator

Submission on the Murray-Darling Basin Commission of Inquiry Bill 2019

1. This submission has been prepared the by Australian Environmental and Planning Law Group of the Law Council's Legal Practice Section (**the AEPLG**).¹ The AEPLG welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Murray-Darling Basin Commission of Inquiry Bill 2019 (**the Bill**).
2. The AEPLG does not support the establishment of another inquiry into the operation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the management of the water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin. The AEPLG's primary concern is that the establishment of such an inquiry could be used as an excuse to further delay action on addressing the issues with the Murray Darling Basin for another year or more, pending the outcome of the inquiry and the release of a report.
3. The AEPLG believes that urgent action is needed to address the issues associated with the operation of the Murray Darling Basin and the protection of the environment and ecosystems that it supports. In the AEPLG's view, this is best done by the Commonwealth Government demonstrating leadership and working collaboratively with the relevant state and local governments, scientists, Traditional Owners, local communities and other stakeholders.
4. The AEPLG would welcome the opportunity to discuss the submission further. Please contact Robyn Glindemann, Chair, Australian Environmental and Planning Law Group at robyn.glindemann@lantegy.com.au in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Smithers
Chief Executive Officer

¹ The Law Council of Australia is a peak national representative body of the Australian legal profession. It represents the Australian legal profession on national and international issues, on federal law and the operation of federal courts and tribunals. The Law Council represents 60,000 Australian lawyers through state and territory bar associations and law societies, as well as Law Firms Australia.