From: Horwood, Bruce [mailto:Bruce.Horwood@treasury.wa.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 8 January 2014 7:47 PM

**To:** Marc Boisseau

Cc: Scherini, Alex; Schipp, Michael

**Subject:** RE: Water for the Future National Partnership [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED:For-Official-Use-Only]

Marc.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the treatment of the *Water for the Future NPP* for the 2014 Update.

Western Australia has no comment to make on this issue.

Regards, Bruce Horwood

From: Marc Boisseau [mailto:Marc.Boisseau@cqc.qov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2014 8:02 AM

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Cc: Colours

**Subject:** Water for the Future National Partnership [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED:For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi all

We have received a late submission (see below) from South Australia asking the Commission to review its treatment of the *Water for the Future* NPP.

We seek your comments on this submission by cob Friday 10 January.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

Marc Boisseau Director Transport and Welfare section (w) 02 6229 8889

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The Secretary
Commonwealth Grants Commission

In reviewing the recently released Commonwealth MYEFO we have looked at the Commission's treatment of the *Water for the Future – sustainable rural water-use and infrastructure* National Partnership (NP).

In the 2010 Review, the Commission considered the Water for the Future omni-bus NP and concluded that the majority of these programs were for irrigation and urban water supply rather than for protection of the environment.

From reviewing South Australian sub-program data for the Sustainable rural water-use and infrastructure component of the Water for the Future NP it is clear that a number of these programs are more focused on protection of the environment than irrigation and urban water supply.

Funding from the Sustainable rural water-use and infrastructure component has been used for the Murray Futures program which is primarily focused on a sustainable river system. Funding has been used for environmental recovery programs in the Coorong and Lower Lakes and for improvement of wetlands and floodplains from the South Australian border to Wellington. In recent years, it would appear that around half of the funding under this component has been for protection of the environment. Other funding has been used for water supply pipelines and irrigation investment.

In the 2011 Update the Commission concluded that the Living Murray program was focused on the protection of the environment. The Murray Futures program has a similar objective.

South Australia believes that the Commission needs to reconsider its blanket treatment that all Water for the Future funding (to states) is for irrigation and urban water supply.