



Australian Government



# The Murray Darling Basin Plan

## David Winfield

# MDBA Board

Mike Taylor (Chair)

Robert Freeman (CEO)

Dr Dianna Day

Dianne Davidson

Professor Barry Hart

David Green

# Role of the Authority

As established by the *Water Act 2007*, in regard to the Basin Plan (BP), the MDBA is responsible for:

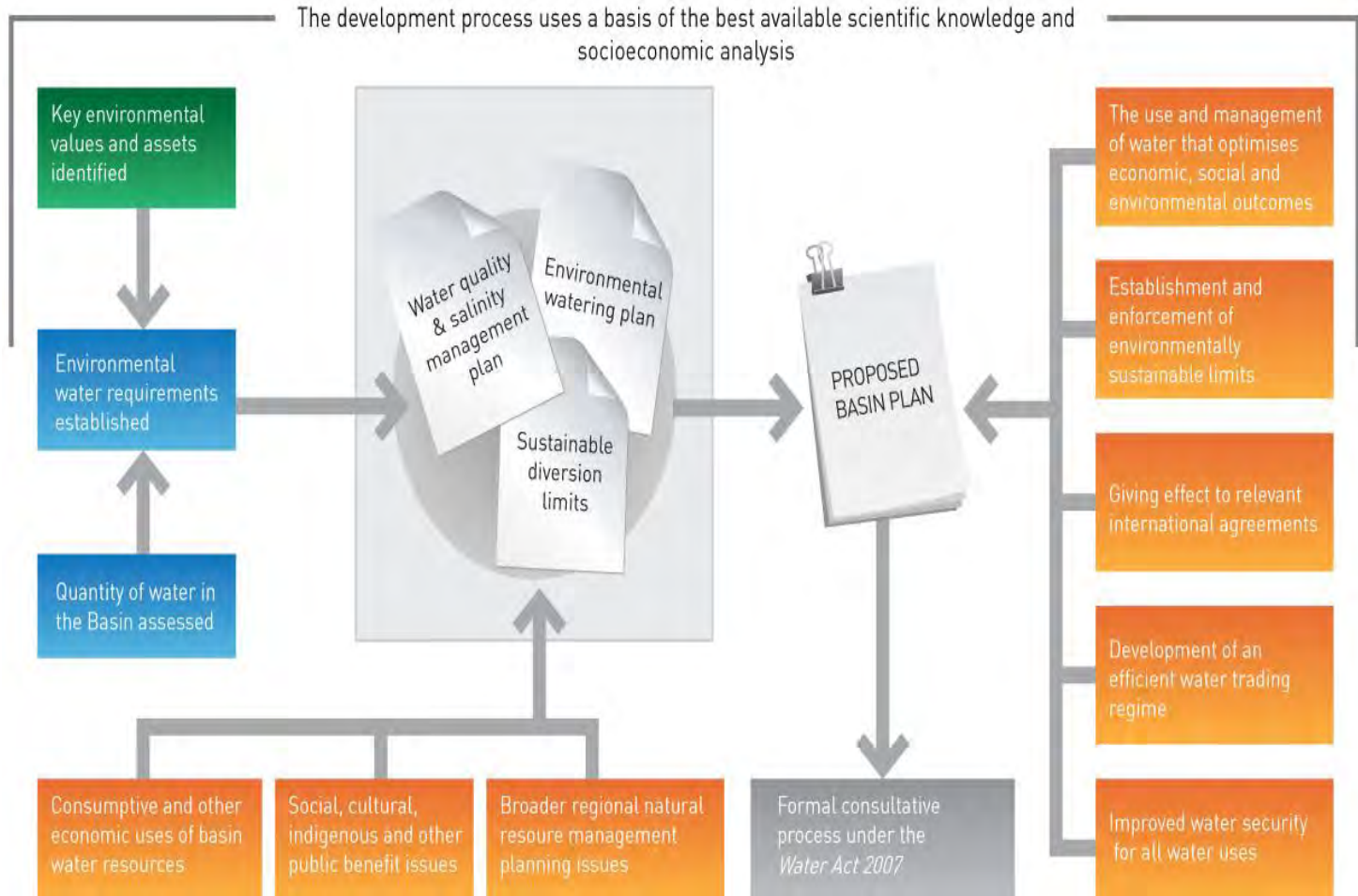
- Preparing, implementing and enforcing the BP
- Advising the Minister on the accreditation of state water resource plans
- Establishing a water rights information service
- Measuring and monitoring water resources
- Gathering information and undertaking research about water resources in the Basin
- Engaging the community in the management of the Basin's resources

# The Basin Plan

*The main functions of the Basin Plan include:*

- Integrated management of Basin water resources
- Set enforceable environmentally sustainable limits on surface water and groundwater
- Give effect to relevant international agreements
- Set basin-wide environmental objectives for water dependent ecosystems and water quality and salinity
- Develop efficient water trading regimes
- Use and management of water in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes
- State the water resource plan requirements
- Improved water security for all uses of the Basin's water resources

# Basis of the Plan



# Environmental Watering Plan

- Will restore and sustain the wetlands and other environmental assets of the Basin
- Identify the environmental objectives for water-dependent ecosystems
- Set targets to measure progress against these objectives
- Provide a management framework for environmental water
- Principles to be applied in environmental watering

# Sustainable Diversion Limits

- SDLs will limit the quantity of surface water and groundwater that may be taken from the Basin water resources as a whole and from individual water resource plan areas
- SDLs will take into account the ‘precautionary principle’ as well as the best available science

# Sustainable Diversion Limits

- Level of diversion that will not compromise
  - Key environmental assets
  - Key ecosystem functions
  - Productive base of the water resource
  - Key environmental outcomes



# Water Quality and Salinity management plan

- Improve water quality
- Reduce salinity impacts
- Identify the main causes of poor water quality
- Set water quality and salinity objectives and targets

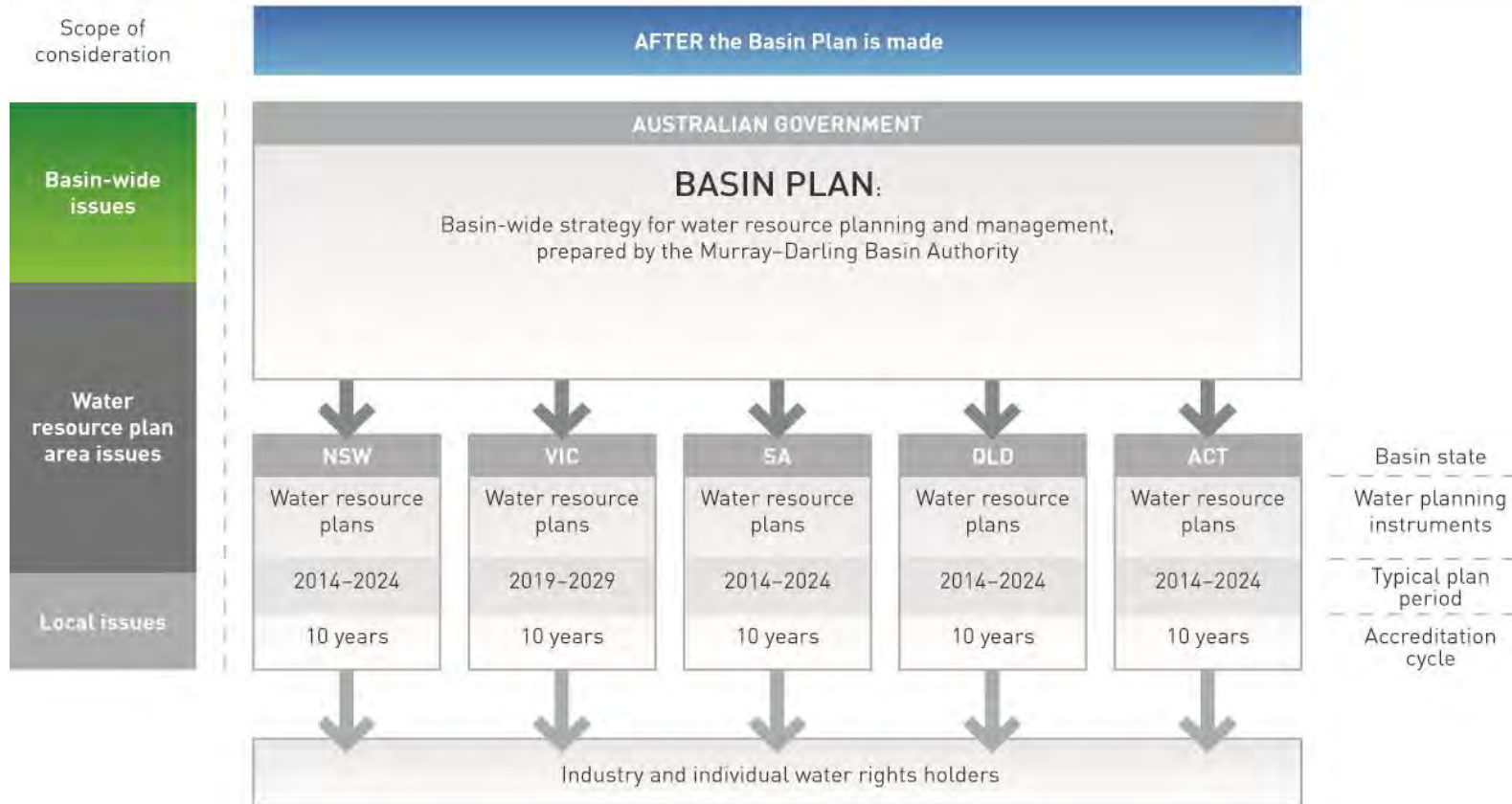
# The Basin Plan and State-based Water Resource Plans

- Basin States will play a key role in developing the Basin Plan
- States will develop and implement water resource plans that are consistent with the Basin Plan
- Commonwealth Minister will accredit new water resource plans if compliant with the Basin Plan

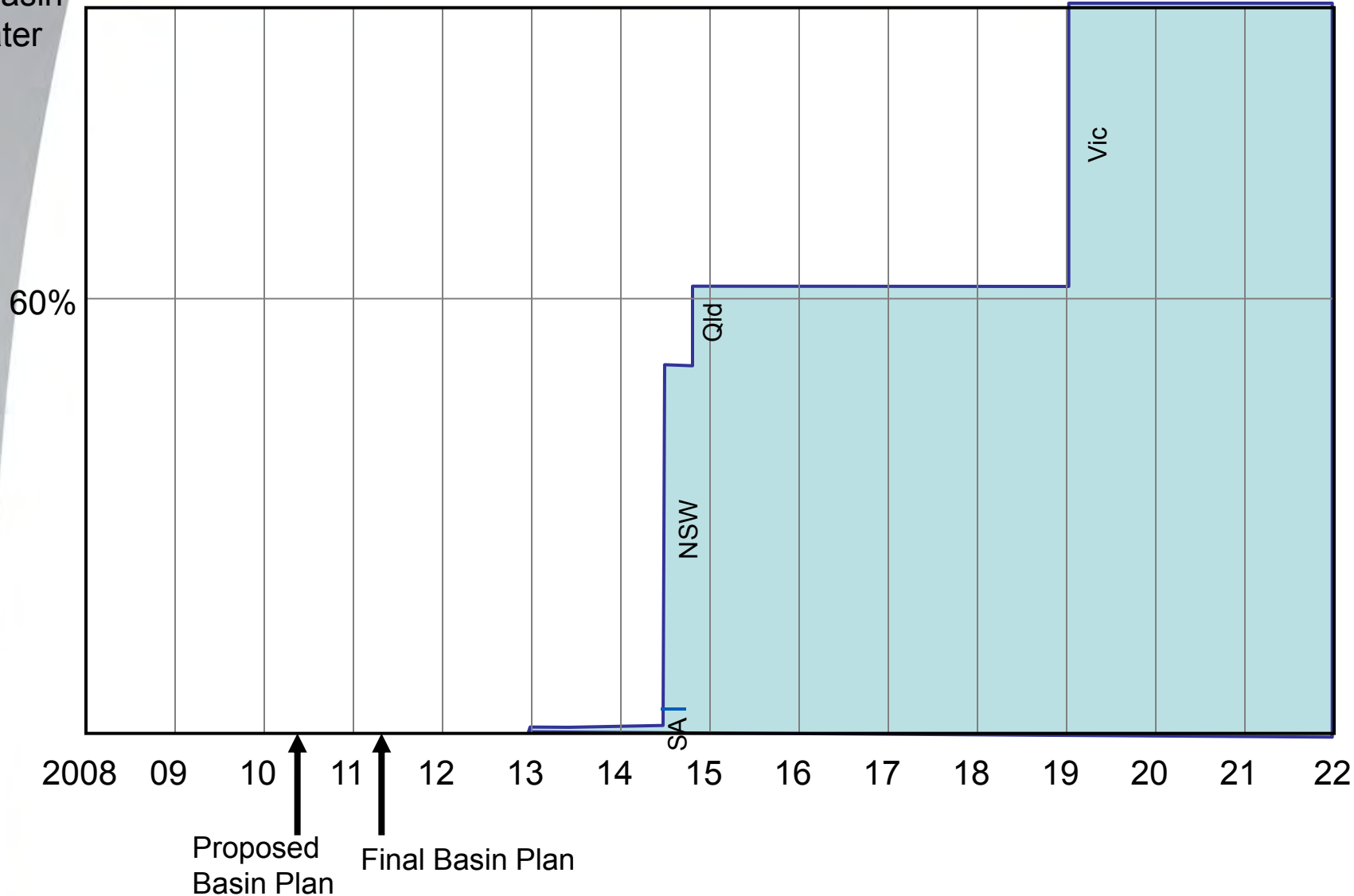
# Before the Basin Plan



# After the Basin Plan



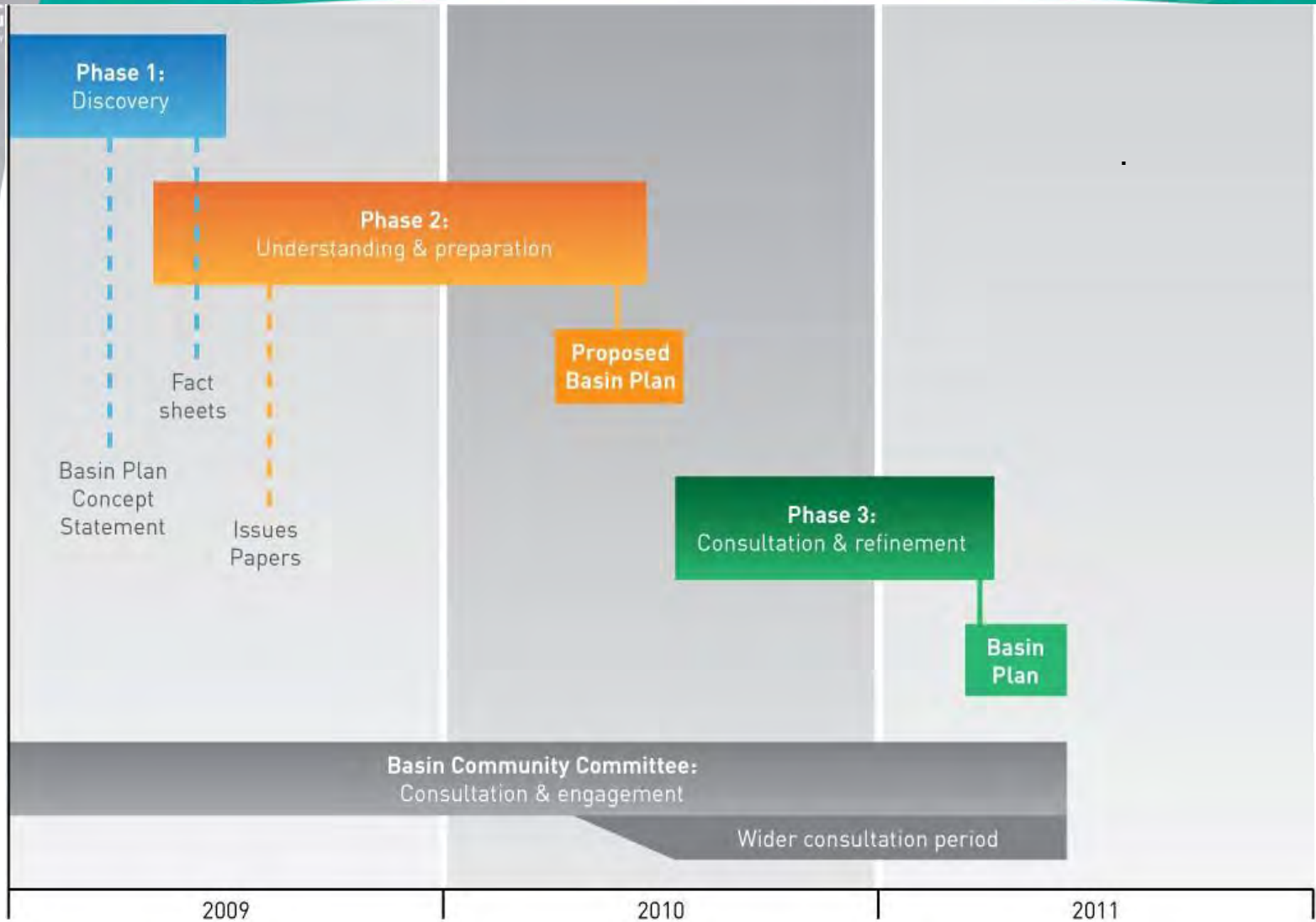
# Timing of State WRP's aligning with the Basin Plan



# Fish and the Basin Plan

- Potentially....
  - Key environmental assets / ecosystem functions
  - Performance measures / indicators for monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of the Basin Plan
  - Environmental watering objectives and principles
  - Broader MDBA functions complementing Basin Plan

# Basin Plan Timetable



# Further Information

The Basin Plan **concept statement** is available on the MDBA website at:

[www.mdba.gov.au/concept-statement](http://www.mdba.gov.au/concept-statement)

For further information, contact us:

Email: [engagement@mdba.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mdba.gov.au)

Phone: (02) 6278 0100