



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **RGA welcomes Water Ministers agreement on SDL Adjustment Mechanism projects**

The Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA) welcomes the Water Ministers endorsement of the final package of Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Adjustment Mechanism projects at The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council today in Canberra. This agreement is an important step in delivering the Basin Plan.

RGA President Jeremy Morton said, "The agreement between Murray Darling Basin Water Ministers to endorse the final package of SDL Adjustment Mechanism projects is welcome news."

Preliminary advice on the SDL Adjustment Mechanism projects from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) indicates the package is likely to achieve an SDL offset in excess of 600 gigalitres (GL). There is also a high level of certainty that the SDL Adjustment Mechanism outcome combined with remaining contracted water recovery projects will fully offset the remaining water recovery 'gap'.

"This advice from the MDBA is also very encouraging and indicates that there is no requirement for further productive water recovery," Mr Morton said.

The Water Ministers reiterated the importance of ongoing consultation with stakeholders and local communities to maintain the integrity of the package of projects. The implementation of these projects between now and 2024 must take an adaptive and consultative approach.

The RGA will now work with the NSW Government and the MDBA to ensure that the endorsed projects provide significant environmental outcomes while maximising the water recovery offset with no community impacts.

"The way forward will require diligent oversight of the projects by RGA but the alternative is to risk returning to wholesale entitlement recovery and we cannot go down that pathway," concluded Mr Morton.

A list of the SDL Adjustment Mechanism projects will be published on the MDBA website by 30 June.

For more information, please see the Murray Darling Basin Authority Communique [here](#).

## **Ends**

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