



The Hon Tony Burke MP

Shadow Minister for Environment and Water
Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia
Shadow Minister for the Arts
Manager of Opposition Business
Member for Watson

Mr Grant Hehir
Auditor-General
Australian National Audit Office
19 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

By email only: grant.hehir@anao.gov.au

Dear Auditor-General

ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

I refer to the *Four Corners* program which was broadcast on the ABC last night.

That program raised a number of serious allegations concerning the Murray-Darling Basin, including that changes to river rules by the New South Wales Government have led to environmental water purchased by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder being pumped into private irrigation channels and dams.

If true, this would mean that environmental water paid for by every Australian to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Murray-Darling Basin is instead being used for private profit and contrary to the purposes for the original Commonwealth purchase.

These allegations question the ongoing integrity of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and warrant further inquiry.

Accordingly, I ask you to investigate these allegations and any other matter you consider relevant arising out of the *Four Corners* program, including but not limited to the protection and use of Commonwealth resources held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Burke".

25 July 2017