



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

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NEW COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today announced the appointments of new commissioners to the National Water Commission.

The inaugural Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the National Water Commission, Ken Matthews, has been reappointed for a further three-year term. Prior to his appointment to the Commission, Mr Matthews was a former Secretary of the Commonwealth Departments of Transport and Regional Services and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The three other Australian Government-nominated commissioners are: Laurie Arthur (Chair, National Farmers Federation Water Task Force); Sally Farrier (Director, Farrier Swier Consulting Pty Ltd); and Chloe Munro (current National Water Commissioner and Executive Director, Innovation Projects for the Digital Future, Telstra).

The three commissioners nominated by the states and territories are Professor Stuart Bunn (Director, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University); Adjunct Professor Chris Davis (former CEO, Australian Water Association), and Elaine Gardiner (Chairman, Ord Irrigation Cooperative).

“Commissioners have been selected for the contribution they can make as individuals to the work of the National Water Commission,” Senator Wong said.

“Together, the new commissioners strike a balance between environmental and production interests, science and economics perspectives, and rural and urban backgrounds.

“Their expertise also reflects both Murray-Darling Basin and non-Basin backgrounds, which is appropriate given the Australia-wide scope of the National Water Initiative.”

The National Water Commission will continue to oversee the shared commitments agreed to in 2004 by Commonwealth, state and territory governments under the National Water Initiative – Australia’s enduring blueprint for water reform.

Incoming commissioners will commence in their new roles on 10 September and will serve for three years.

“I would like to thank outgoing commissioners Peter Corish, David Trebeck and Dr John Radcliffe, as well as acknowledging the contributions made by former commissioners, the late Professor Peter Cullen and Dr Wally Cox.

“The outgoing commissioners have made a substantial contribution to the National Water Commission during its crucial first term of implementing the National Water Initiative and advancing water reform in Australia.”