

20EW0011742



**Government
of South Australia**

Office of the Minister for
Environment and Water

81-95 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel 08 8463 5680
minister.speirs@sa.gov.au

Senator Rex Patrick
Senator for South Australia
Email: Senator.Patrick@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Patrick

I refer to your application pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) received by the Office of the Minister for Environment and Water, on 22 December 2020, seeking access to:

“Any correspondence or consultation (sent between 1 May 2020 and up to the date of this request) between the Federal and South Australian State Government on the appointment of the Hon. Troy Grant as the Interim Inspector-General of Water Compliance for the Murray-Darling Basin.”

DETERMINATION

Searches of documents held by the Office of the Minister for Environment and Water have found one (1) document within scope of your request.

As the Accredited FOI Officer, I have considered the documents and determined to grant you full access to 1 document.

DISCLOSURE LOG

In accordance with [PC045 – Disclosure logs for Non-personal information](#) once a determination has been provided, the Office is required to make information and documents that have been disclosed available on the Department for Environment and Water website. Information will be publicised online at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log/minister-disclosure-log> .

FEES AND CHARGES

There is no charge for processing this application.

YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your rights to internal review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation, by completing the attached Application for Review of Determination.

If you decide to apply to exercise your rights to review, the completed form must be returned within 30 days to:

Principal FOI Officer
Office for the Minister for Environment and Water
PO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

If you have any queries in relation to the above please contact me on telephone (08) 8463 5680 or email Minister.Speirs@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Carly McNeill
ACCREDITED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER
Office of the Minister for Environment and Water

10 February 2021

Encl: Document schedule
Release documents

Freedom of Information application: 20EW0011742

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No	Author	Date	Document Description	Determination	Clause	Reason
1	Minister for Environment and Water	22/12/2020	Letter to Hon Keith Pitt MP - Appointment of the Interim Inspector-General	Full release		

20EW0011729



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The Hon Keith Pitt MP
Minister for Water Resources
PO Box 6022 House of Representatives
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
By email: Keith.Pitt.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister *Keith,*

RE: Appointment of Interim Inspector-General of Water Compliance and outstanding Murray-Darling Basin Board appointments

On 16 December 2020 you announced the appointment of the Hon Troy Grant as the new Interim Inspector-General of Water Compliance in the Murray-Darling Basin.

As you know, the South Australian Premier, Hon Steven Marshall, and I have championed the creation of a Basin-wide independent umpire and South Australia continues to support the creation of the Inspector-General in Commonwealth legislation. The role of Inspector-General is essential to restore the trust and confidence of communities and stakeholders that water is being managed in accordance with accredited Water Resources Plans and state water laws across the Basin. The office holder must be therefore be seen by Basin governments and stakeholders alike as bipartisan, impartial and held to the highest standards of integrity.

While I note Mr Grant's experience in policing and justice will be valuable for the role, I am disappointed that South Australia and other Basin jurisdictions were not consulted on his appointment. I note that similar concerns have been raised by the New South Wales water minister, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP and Victorian water minister, the Hon Lisa Neville MP.

I am hopeful that Mr Grant's experience and approach will prevail over any perceived political alignment, and South Australia looks forward to discussing with him matters of particular importance to our communities and stakeholders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again highlight that the state of South Australia continues to be underrepresented on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's board, and I believe that this should be remedied urgently.

The MDBA is a vital institution, responsible for planning the Basin's water resources. It plays an important role in ensuring each Basin state contributes its fair share in ensuring water resources are used sustainably and the River Murray system is operated efficiently. It is therefore that it is full and effective.

I call on the federal government to urgently appoint a suitable South Australian who has the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding of the river's environmental, social and economic roles. I have made numerous representations to this effect and provided recommendations for candidates.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further, please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Speirs', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

DAVID SPEIRS MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 22/12/22

Cc: Senator Simon Birmingham and Senator Anne Ruston