

MEDIA RELEASE

ABC complaint upheld - apology for bias on Basin Plan reporting

The Ricegrowers Association of Australia (RGA) was a joint complainant regarding the accuracy and impartiality of Murray Darling Basin Plan reporting on [Background Briefing](#), 29 April & 6 May 2018 and ABC News Facebook, 26 April 2018. [The ABC's Audience and Consumer Affairs Unit has upheld the complaint.](#)

RGA President Mr. Jeremy Morton said "The ABC has strict editorial policies which give confidence to their audience that they are receiving accurate, impartial and balanced reporting on matters of national interest. It is extremely disappointing that those policies were not adhered to and the RGA welcomes the complaint being upheld".

The RGA encourages all journalists to uphold strong standards of accuracy, impartiality and balance.

"The ABC should be an example of what exceptional journalism looks like and the ABC reporters in rural, regional and remote Australia are well placed to assist their colleagues when reporting on complex issues of national importance like the Murray Darling Basin Plan" Mr Morton said.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan is difficult reform with significant consequences from an environmental, social and economic perspective. Progress to date in the 12 year Plan is mixed and an adaptive pathway forward is needed.

"Like any plan that runs for over a decade it needs to adapt to progress on the ground and new information about achieving the outcomes we all want. Journalists have a key role in reporting that progress in an accurate, impartial and balanced way" Mr Morton concluded.

If you require more information please contact the RGA at

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