

MORE DETAIL NEEDED ON WATER PLAN

A parliamentary committee looking into the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan wants a better explanation of how the federal government will acquire the water it wants to return to the river system, before parliament considers any legislation on the plan.

At the end of May, the Department of Sustainability told the House of Representatives Regional Australia Committee that of the 2,750 gigitalitres required, 1,480 gigitalitres were already under contract.

The committee believes the public needs much more information on how the proposed plan will acquire the

remaining 1,270 gigitalitres needed to meet the proposed target.

Committee chair Tony Windsor (New England, NSW) told ABC Radio the government and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority should make it very clear how they intend to put together their water recovery plan. "So that not only is it feasible for that water to be delivered to some of the environmental icon sites and some of the productive uses, but the community actually understands how that water would be delivered," Mr Windsor said.

The committee's report is available at www.aph.gov.au/ra or for more information email ra.reps@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4162.



DATA FLOW: *More information sought on Murray-Darling*

THINKSTOCK



CYBER SAY: *Survey for seniors*

CYBER SURVEY FOR SENIORS

People aged 55 and over have been invited to take part in the Australian seniors' cyber-safety survey which aims to find out what older Australians think about online services.

The anonymous survey, being conducted by federal parliament's Cyber-Safety Committee, gives senior Australians the chance to share their online experiences and help the government understand how they can make the internet more accessible and safer for seniors.

Committee chair Senator Catryna Bilyk (Tas) said the committee is investigating the best means to reduce the risks, enhance consumer protection and build online confidence for older internet users.

"The internet has opened a whole new way of communicating and removed

barriers of time, distance and physical limitation," Senator Bilyk said.

"It is a matter of equity that older Australians are confident to enjoy the ease of digital communication, and so participate more fully in society."

The survey, which only takes about 10 minutes to complete, has attracted significant interest to date and Senator Bilyk encourages more senior Australians to have their say.

To take the survey visit www.aph.gov.au/jscc or for more information email jscc@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4202.



JUST A MINUTE: *Taking time out for democracy*

DEMOCRACY HAS ITS DAY

Nations around the world will celebrate the universal right of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems on International Day of Democracy, September 15.

The United Nations founded the International Day of Democracy in 2007 to promote the values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage which are the essential elements of democracy.

Speaking on International Day of Democracy 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reaffirmed that democracy does not belong to any country or region but rather is the right of all people to fully participate in all aspects of their lives.

"On this International Day of Democracy, let us redouble our efforts to support all people, in particular the young – the drivers of this year's momentous events – in making democracy a working reality," Mr Ban said.

"This day belongs to them. Let us honour their commitment to a lifelong journey in democracy."

So this September 15 why not take 60 seconds to think about what democracy means to you.

For more information about International Day of Democracy events visit: www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/events.html