

Implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan

A public lecture by
The Hon. Craig Knowles, Chair of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority

4:00pm on Monday, 29 July 2013
Ann Harding Room, Building 24 University of Canberra

Dr Peter O'Brien, Director of the Murray-Darling Basin Futures Collaborative Research Network (MDB*futures*), is pleased to invite you to a public lecture which will be given by the Hon. Craig Knowles, Chair of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Mr Knowles will talk about the historic Basin Plan becoming law last year and what this latest step in the basin water reform aims to achieve.

He will provide an update on the plan's implementation and discuss the key pieces of work needing to be completed as the plan rolls out over the next seven years, as well as the political and practical challenges that lie ahead.

Mr Knowles attributes the Federal Parliament's bipartisan support for the plan mainly to the significant consultation that was undertaken with the many agencies and interest groups, and most importantly, people living in basin communities. Their input during consultation helped to shape, and ultimately, improved the final Basin Plan. Mr Knowles will talk about the importance of continuing these conversations and working with communities across the basin as the different pieces of work are developed over the coming years.

He will touch on some of these key pieces of work, including the social and economic monitoring to assess the effects of implementing the plan, the study on constraints in the system and the environmental watering strategy.

Murray-Darling Basin Futures CRN

Funded through the Department of Innovation, MDB*futures* is a collaborative research network¹ led by the University of Canberra. It aims to grow research capacity and quality and apply it to the challenges facing the Basin.

Biography



The Hon. Craig Knowles was appointed the role of chair of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) in January 2011.

The Authority is an independent organisation, set up under Australian federal law, and is responsible for producing and implementing a multi-jurisdictional, basin-wide management plan to balance water use for social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Mr Knowles brings to the position a strong track record of water, land use and natural resource management, policy and reform. In particular, he played a key role helping to drive the 2004 National Water Initiative and was responsible for introducing the Building Sustainability Index in the Australian state of New South Wales through his work as the state's Minister for Infrastructure and Natural Resources.

Mr Knowles spent 10 years in the New South Wales State Parliament serving in the portfolios of Planning and Housing (1995–1999), Health (1999–2003), Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (2003–2005) and Forests and Lands (2003–2005).

Since retiring from Parliament in 2005, Mr Knowles has taken up a number of advisory positions and directorships in the health, finance, property, planning and aged care sectors. These include director of the Black Dog Institute, director of the Children’s Medical Research Institute, director of Asthma Australia, director of the Mental Health Council of Australia and most recently, chair of the Australian Centre for Photography.

Public Lecture – Implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan

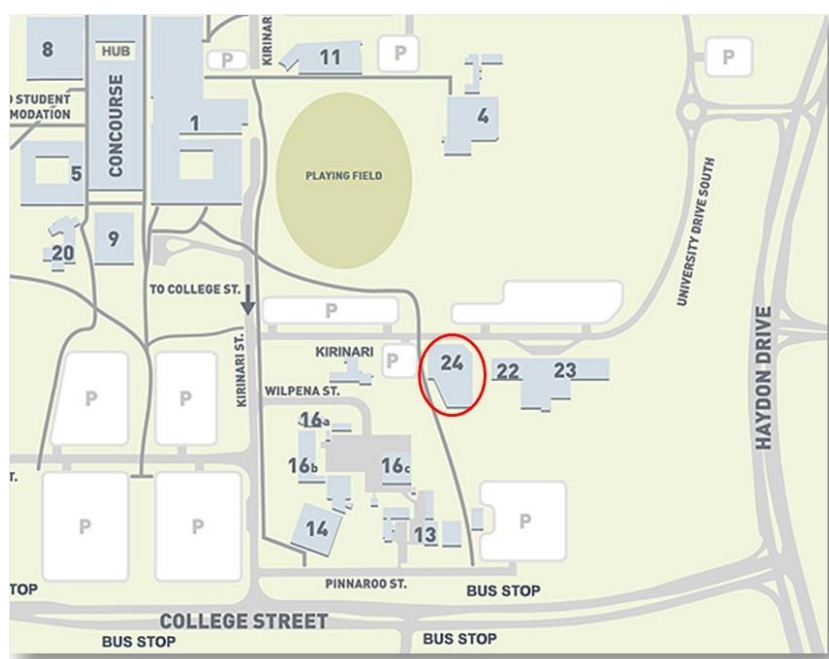
Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm *followed by refreshments*

Date: Monday, 29th July 2013

Venue: Ann Harding Room, Convention Centre
Building 24, University of Canberra

RSVP: by cob 24th July 2013 to mdbfutures@canberra.edu.au

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ⁱ **Research partners** are the Australian National University, Charles Sturt University, the University of Southern Queensland, and CSIRO

Government partners are the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences; the Murray-Darling Basin Authority; the National Water Commission; the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities; the Department of Innovation, Industry, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education; the Department for Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.