29 November 2012

Mr Alan Noble

By Email

Dear Mr Noble,

**Request for documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)**

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth) request dated 7 November 2012 to the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) requesting the following:

‘Copy of the latest briefing by the Murray Darling Basin Authority on the pros and cons of removing (or permanently opening) the River Murray barrages and/or the latest briefing by the Authority on the impact of allowing seawater incursions into the Lower Lakes of the River Murray.’

As your request covers documents which concern Commonwealth-State relations, the Authority is required to consult under section 26A of the FOI Act with those agencies concerned before making a decision on the release of the documents.

Subsection 15(6) of the FOI Act (copy enclosed) provides for an extension of 30 days to the statutory 30-day time limit for processing requests. While the default 30-day timeframe for processing your request expires on 7 December 2012, in accordance with this subsection of the Act the time limit for processing your request is now 7 January 2013.

Yours sincerely

FOI Officer
Parliamentary and FOI Coordination Unit
Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)

Part III – Access to documents

Section 15 Requests for access

(6) Where, in relation to a request, the agency or Minister determines in writing that the requirements of section 26A, 26AA, 27 or 27A make it appropriate to extend the period referred to in paragraph (5)(b):

(a) the period is extended by a further period of 30 days; and

(b) the agency or Minister must, as soon as practicable, inform the applicant that the period has been so extended.