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**Murray Darling Basin Plan survey for balance:** embargo 5am Thursday 15 July

The NSW Farmers' Association will conduct an independent survey into the Murray Darling Basin Planning process amid concerns about how water will be allocated.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the Association is concerned that all stakeholders are not being equally considered in the planning for the Basin.

"It seems that the planning methodology being used by the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) involves determining how much water is required for the environment, and then allocating what remains between the other water users in the basin," Mr Armstrong said.

"We want to see our scarce water resources allocated in a way that optimises the social, economic and environmental outcomes of the Basin," he said.

"An informed discussion about how much water should be allocated to different environmental needs in the Basin cannot be had without a clear understanding of social and economic consequences of removing this water from its current uses.

"Our survey aims to increase understanding of the particular concerns of affected stakeholders in the Murray Darling Basin. It will also provide valuable data for use in the Association's submission in response to the Draft Basin Plan," he said.

"I strongly encourage everyone to take this opportunity in having your voice heard. We only have a limited window to ensure the best outcomes for everyone," Mr Armstrong said.

The survey has been designed to take no longer than 10 minutes, and can be found at [www.nswfarmers.org.au/surveys/mdb](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/surveys/mdb).

The Association understands that not all farmers have access to the internet. Please note that hard copies of this survey can be obtained from the Association Member Service centre on 1300 794 000 or from local Regional Membership Coordinator.

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