



Australian Government



Inspector-
General of
Water
Compliance

WATER'S EDGE: TRANSCRIPT

S3, Episode 9: 'Field days and surveys – the community's say on Murray-Darling Basin water management'

Speaker 1: *Water's Edge* podcast acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout the Murray-Darling Basin and Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. Coming up in this episode of *Water's Edge*.

AD: How's the community feeling about water management in the Murray-Darling Basin? A deep dive into a revealing new report conducted by ORIMA Research.

PM: We've been able to set up a real baseline data point to track how the different landscape and things happening across the Basin are having impact on community sentiment.

AD: At field days across the country, community members share what they're concerned about for the Murray-Darling Basin.

Speaker: We've got to enable equity for the farmers, because farmers feed the nation. However, we've got the risk of how we conserve our waterways.

AD: Plus, the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, the Honourable Troy Grant, steps up to the mic to answer *Water's Edge* listener questions.

TG: I'm not afraid. If I'm holding people to account, I have to be held to account as well. And, ultimately, it's the Australian public that's going to do that.

Speaker: You are listening to *Water's Edge* with your host, Allison Dance.

AD: Field days bring together a show of industries such as agriculture, machinery, and retail. They're a favourite social outing in the regions, with entertainment and food. The independent Inspector-General of Water Compliance has experts in the water space and field officers attending five major field days this year, including Farm Fest in Toowoomba, where team member Jess is chatting with attendees at the IGWC site.

Jess: We are field officers and we engage with people in our communities across the entire Basin. Now you know we are here, you can pass our contact details around your community, and you have access to us. I'm imagining that, in your area, there'd be a few tricky questions like the ones that you had today for us.

Speaker: Yeah, because we're at the top of the Darling system - like, we're at the very, very top of it. That's what makes it a bit more tricky. It's probably a lot more understood further down into, into the Bolong.

Jess: Yep.

- AD: This is one way the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Troy Grant, engages with the community on management of Murray-Darling Basin Resources - a requirement of the role. But the basin is a lot of ground to cover. It's 14% of Australia's land area. So, intelligence collected at field days combines with the IGWC's Community Sentiment Survey to highlight key areas and direct the Inspector-General's work.
- TG: The community sentiment survey shows trends in sentiment because it does take time for some of the changes to wash through and be evident. So, it gives us both immediate results, but also longer-term trends. It's also a report card on how we are going. I'm not afraid. If I'm holding people to account, I have to be held to account as well. And, ultimately, it's the Australian public that's going to do that. That's the sort of information we need to do better. And that's what was absent for a decade in this space. All the different agencies would go out, into the community, and they would consult, consult, consult and listen. And the community got frustrated, because they were listening, but they were never hearing what the community was saying. And that's where the sentiment's really shifting now. They've got someone to back them in, to make people hear what they've got to say and respond - not just tokenistically listen to them and over-consult them. This is a genuine effort to hear and respond. We're in their corner and we're the ones that are backing in the community to get the outcomes they deserve and expect. We rely on ORIMA Research to do our community sentiment survey.
- PM: What's so great about the way that the Inspector-General has set up this research program is that it's been built-in from the very start. So, we've been able to set up a real baseline data point, which enables us now to track how those things change over time and really have that precision in terms of our measurements, which has been so fabulous, to track changes and how the different landscape and the different things happening across the Basin are having that impact on community sentiment.
- AD: That's Penny [Moylan], principal research manager at ORIMA Research, based in Melbourne.
- PM: I studied communications and social sciences, and I also did post-grad studies in the water space, and now specialise in science communication and behavioural sciences as well. So, it's particularly relevant for that community sentiment research piece. We've been involved in doing research annually. This is the second year that we've done the research for the Inspector-General of Water Compliance. The research provides a bit of a health check of water compliance and community sentiment across the Basin. The latest project that we conducted was at the end of last year, in 2023.
- AD: And you're doing two types of reports for us - so we have a longer, more comprehensive report, and this is a snapshot, moreso.
- PM: Absolutely.
- AD: Can you talk us through the difference, so we know what to expect with this report?
- PM: Yeah, absolutely. So, the research program that we set up for the Inspector-General of Water Compliance is based on a two-year cycle. In the first year, it's a more comprehensive report. We do more extensive research for that. We have a larger component where we speak with more community members across the Basin. And then,

every second year, we do one of these more snapshot-style reports where we're really tracking community sentiment throughout that time, to understand key updates or changes, but through a bit more of a snapshot-sort of style.

AD: Yes. Keeping an eye on it, before the next big report?

PM: That's it. Absolutely.

AD: Just to make sure we're on track, I guess, is a good way to look

PM: Absolutely, yes.

AD: So, when we're looking at 'community' for this report, who are we talking about? How are you targeting such a massive space?

PM: We're really careful to make sure that we're reaching and engaging the whole cohort of audiences in this space. When we do the research, we specifically reach and engage with water license holders. We know that that's an audience who is very much engaged and has a real vested interest in the topic. But we also reach and engage community members who might be advocates in this space, but then those who are less engaged as well. We do actually know the cohorts who are less engaged tend to make up the majority of the population across the Basin.

AD: Yeah. The pit in that one - that's a point we're going to talk about a little later on.

PM: So, we make sure that we're speaking to people both in the northern and the southern Basin. We sort of divide the Basin up into a number of different areas and make sure that we're reaching and engaging participants and respondents from right across the basin for our sample.

AD: And how do you actually collect the data?

PM: We've got qualitative data and we've got quantitative data. So, for the qualitative data, we conduct focus groups and interviews with participants across the Basin. In the 2023 research that we've just done, we went to four different locations across the Basin, across 4 states, and we spoke to 67 participants for that project. The qualitative data is great because it gives us that real depth of insight, and we can really unpack the sorts of things that participants are feeling and thinking and the context that that's happening in at that time. And then we follow up from the qualitative research with quantitative research. So, that's conducted via a survey and for the 2023 project, we spoke with over 1,000 respondents. That's conducted via telephone as well as online. So, respondents have that option if they are not necessarily tech savvy or they don't have access to the internet, then they can do the telephone survey. That quantitative data gives us the ability to really measure the magnitude of shifts that we see in sentiment across the Basin over that time. So, it's great for sort of tracking any changes and gives that statistical rigour to those research findings. With that quantitative data, we clean it, once it's come in, and then we can wait it to the ABS census data so that it can then be extrapolated to the broader population across the Basin.

AD: What do you mean by 'clean the data'? I've not heard that term.

PM: That's a great question. We check that the responses all make sense. You'd take out any responses that might be - if people have sort of responded all consistently a particular way or if it sort of doesn't make sense. You're getting rid of responses that are not necessarily valid. We have quite rigorous processes in terms of going through the data and removing responses that...

AD: If someone's donkey voted? Essentially clicked all the...

PM: Yeah. Look, it doesn't happen often, but we want to make sure that when we are providing that data, we can hang our hats on it and be sure it's got that rigour behind it. AD: Wow. That's intensive.

PM: It is a quite intensive process, absolutely.

AD: They are big numbers, but when we're talking about this snapshot report, it is a smaller report than last year's one. So, how can we still be confident in the data when it is a smaller amount of information that has been fed into it?

PM: Having the two research methodologies - having the quantitative research as well as the qualitative research - is a great way to ensure that, because that provides that triangulation of the data. So we can check in and make sure that what we're hearing in the qualitative research is also what we are hearing from those quantitative results. That provides certainty around those findings. Even though it is smaller, and more of a snapshot of the findings, we've kept a large sample. So, we're still talking about over 1,000 respondents through the quantitative survey. So, we know that there's statistical rigour there with the quantitative findings. Another way that we can check in on the results is that we're doing this tracking over time. So, we can see, year to year, how those results are changing. That just provides with more certainty as to the findings that we present.

AD: Something else interesting about the data is how it can be influenced by what's happening around it - so, what we're seeing politically, what we're seeing in the environment. When you collected this data, when was it, and can you set the scene for what was happening around that time?

PM: Yes, that's such a good question. Anyone who works in the water space knows that it's a complex topic and things are forever shifting. It's a forever shifting landscape. We were collecting this data, both for the qualitative and the quantitative data, at the end of 2023. At that time, in the Basin, there was a lot of water in the Basin. This is something that we do report on, in our findings, because we know that the context very much changes during drier times as well. We've done research during drier times and we find that sentiment and attitudes can shift and really intensify. But, at the time that we were doing this research, it was a wetter time. At the same time, the end of last year, there was a lot of media around the water amendment bill - the Restoring Our Rivers - which commenced in December 2023. So, the discourse was really happening around the time that we were doing the research in November.

AD: Yes. A lot of media articles on these topics at that time, wasn't it? And bringing up a lot of negative sentiment as well around water, a lot of controversies. It was a tough time to be researching in the space, I suppose.

PM: Absolutely. And that was particularly the case among our more engaged community members and the water license holder participants that we were speaking with.

AD: It's interesting when you talk about the more engaged community members, because we did note from your research last time, when you did the full report, that there was 77% of people didn't know that they were actually living in the Murray-Darling Basin. So, that was the 2022-23 period. Has that moved? Have we seen a shift there?

PM: A very slight shift. It's an interesting data point that 73% don't know they live in the Basin, because - interestingly - 60% say that they know what the Murray-Darling Basin is.

AD: They know about the Murray-Darling Basin, they know about their local rivers - they're not aware that it connects to this broader system?

PM: Absolutely. And that's what we hear time and time again in the qualitative research, where people really talk about their local rivers and their local waterways, but have very limited understanding of that broader system, and the Basin itself. So, there's limited awareness when we're talking to people about the size of the Basin, of which states it covers...

AD: Many people don't realise that Canberra is part of the Murray-Darling Basin!

PM: Absolutely. There's very limited awareness as to the interconnected nature of the Basin, which is really interesting - what happens upstream having impacts downstream and the like, and the extent that water flows are managed across the Basin as well. If we're just talking with community members, they have very limited awareness as to the extent of regulation and sort of control of the system.

[Music plays]

AD: Ouyen musicians Mary Cummins and Brian 'Chooka' Williams have been the entertainment at Mally Machinery Field Days in Speed, Victoria for 30 years. The IGWC team are on the ground and what they're hearing matches with the community sentiment survey findings. Have you heard about the Murray-Darling basin?

Speaker: No.

AD: Do you know if you live in the Murray-Darling Basin?

Speaker: Um, probably not. No.

AD: Have you heard of the Murray-Darling Basin?

Speaker: No. Yeah.

AD: A bit of a mixed response there.

Speaker: Yeah, nah, I have.

AD: So, if you've heard of it, what do you know about it?

Speaker: Oh, it's got a couple rivers in there, like the Murray River and then the Darling River.

AD: Do you guys know what the Murray-Darling Basin is?

Speaker: Yes. Yeah. I think so.

AD: What do you know about it?

Speaker: It's the rain catchment area up in kind of New South Wales, with, like, a tiny bit of Victoria maybe? And Queensland, and South Australia.

AD: Yeah. It's a pretty big space. Have you heard about the Murray-Darling Basin?

Speaker: No, I haven't, sorry.

AD: Have you heard of the Murray-Darling Basin?

Speaker: Yes.

AD: Do you live in the Basin?

Speaker: No? I don't know.

AD: And what issues or concerns do you have with the Murray-Darling Basin, that you've heard about?

Speaker: There's probably not a massive amount that directly affects me because I'm a dry land farmer. So, it doesn't sort of worry me too much.

AD: What about in terms of groundwater?

Speaker: We've all pipeline water, which does come out of the Murray, so through GWM water.

Speaker: So, there's that flow on, I suppose.

AD: Have you guys heard about the Murray Do Basin?

Speaker: Yes.

AD: What do you know about it?

Speaker: It's at great conservational risk and we are worried about how we'll keep sustaining our farmers as well as keep sustaining our waterways.

AD: And, with some understanding of the Basin, the community sentiment survey lets the IGWC dive deeper into data, with Penny back at ORIMA. It's a pretty big challenge when you have a huge amount of the population needing this basic education of where they're living and why that's important. So, when we go and drill down a little further, into water compliance, where is the understanding of water compliance sitting for our communities?

- PM: Yeah, so, generally we find when we are speaking with participants on the topic of water compliance that it isn't really a front of mind consideration. But it is a basic expectation. There is an expectation that there will be water rules and regulations and that they will be followed. So, when we're speaking with participants in the research, they do feel it's really important to have that compliance and that enforcement to ensure the consistency of water regulations across the Basin to ensure that the rules and regulations are fair and equitable and, ultimately, to ensure the sustainability of the system, which we know is so important for the survival of communities across the Basin.
- AD: What was the context around that? And perhaps what is some of the reasoning why it might not have been at the front of people's minds in December last year?
- PM: So, the fact that there was more water in the system at the time is definitely one of the reasons that so many community members sort of interact with it without thinking about it too much. We do know the importance of community members being informed and being aware of the different things that are happening across the Basin. As an example, if you've got a community member in an area where there's lots of pumps happening, and they're walking along the river and they're seeing and they're hearing the pumps, if they're not aware of the extent of compliance and enforcement that's sort of being applied to those pumps, then they can have a real fear or a real concern. And you particularly can see how, in those drier times, that could play into more negative and intensified emotions. Whereas, if they're aware of the extent of compliance and enforcement and that this is being overseen, they tend to feel quite differently when they see those pumps.
- AD: And that leads us beautifully to the Inspector-General of Water Compliance's role itself. What's the understanding about that, and the importance of having that independent body oversee water compliance?
- PM: So, in terms of awareness of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, there's still quite a lot of scope there to improve that. In the initial, more comprehensive, project in 2022-23, we did set up some, some KPIs for the Inspector-General of Water Compliance to measure the community sentiment over time. And what we've seen over that time, and in this tracking survey, is shifts in the right direction. Yeah,
- AD: We've seen an uptick!
- PM: We have seen an uptick, which is great. So, particularly for the KPIs around confidence and trust, where we've seen a significant shift among community member respondents, as well as perceived performance of the Inspector-General, we've seen an uptick there both for community members and water license holder respondents. Because we have different levers under each of those KPIs that we can track - so, specific data points - we are seeing an uptick there around participants or respondents agreeing to the IGWC's capability as well as the ability to ensure consistency in water management, which is really fantastic. We would say, in terms of that awareness KPI, that's probably the one we didn't see significant shifts. When we're looking at independence - and across both of the surveys, it's come through really strongly - we do know that respondents really want that independent federal body overseeing water rules and regulations. Seven out of 10 of our respondents are saying that's important.

AD: Wow. That is a significant chunk.

PM: Absolutely. Likewise, in this more recent survey, we asked about the importance of knowing that the IGWC was independent from the government. This is something that we hear quite a lot in the qualitative research sessions, where people are talking about the importance of having that separation and independence from politics and ensuring that there's no political interference there. That was reflected, again, in those quantitative results where we had 6 out of 10 community members and 7 out of 10 water license holders say that's important to them.

AD: So, even the water license holders - who've obviously got that deeper understanding there - thinking that too?

PM: Absolutely - if not moreso than the community!

AD: IGWC field officer Pat explained the Inspector-General's role to attendees at Farm Fest.

PS: Troy Grant is currently the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, and the Inspector-General of Water Compliance is an independent regulator and overseer of the Water Act and Murray-Darling Basin plan. In simple terms, pretty much we're the top tier of compliance and ensuring that government organisations and authorities comply with the laws and policies. Do you think that the rules and regulations of the Murray-Darling Basin are good or not good? For water users?

Speaker: I can't speak for the others, but for me it's been good because you use water more efficiently. You don't over water because you know you haven't got the water. If you use it, you're finished. So, you've got to be a bit careful.

Speaker: The Inspector-General of Water Compliance has a network of field officers located throughout the Murray-Darling Basin. To make contact with your nearest field officer, call 13 IGWC or 13 44 92.

AD: Water users were also included in the IGWC's Community Sentiment survey, and had plenty to say on the Basin plan, an initiative across governments which sets out the amount of water that can be taken from the Basin each year, leaving enough for the environment.

AD: Now, the Inspector-General of Water Compliance sits under the Water Act and the Basin plan. What was community sentiment like towards the Basin plan this time around?

PM: So, what we were seeing in relation to the Basin plan - and this probably feeds into that discourse happening around the bill at the time - was an uptick in awareness about the Basin plan.

AD: It was the Water Amendment Restoring our Rivers Bill.

PM: That's right. So, there was a lot of conversation going on at the time. When I say an uptick, we're still only talking about 1 in 5 community members who are aware of the plan and know what it is.

AD: What's that compared to? Do you recall how much it's up by?

PM: It was 20% in 2023, up from 14% the year before. So, for a year that's quite a significant uptick and obviously water license holders were more aware of the plan. We had 70% of water license holders saying they're aware. But we saw with the increase in awareness, a decline or a decrease in terms of support for the plan. We found that was particularly the case among water license holders. So, if we're looking at the statistics there, in 2022 we had 47% of water license holders saying they were supportive or very supportive of the plan, and this went down to 27% in 2023.

AD: It'll be interesting to see what the next report brings.

PM: Absolutely. We're so interested to see now what it's going to be like in the next year.

AD: I guess that's how you can track whether this was really influenced by what they're hearing, or is this a genuine change in feelings.

PM: Absolutely. That's what makes this research program so interesting. We can see that, from year to year, and I absolutely love getting into that data each time and looking. I'm a data nerd.

AD: I love that. Tell me what the report says about water theft.

PM: So, we have actually seen a bit of an uptick when we asked respondents whether they agreed that penalties for water theft in the Basin were appropriate. We saw a bit of an uptick there among community members. We also had more community members agreeing that enforcement of water rules and regulations is consistent across the different states and territories in the Basin, and that water in the Basin is monitored effectively. So, those are all great points.

AD: I think those are really good points to talk to. And it leads into the importance of a healthy waterway to the community.

PM: Absolutely. And when we ask communities, so many community members agree that water rules and regulations are so important for the survival of communities across the Basin.

AD: Some of the key concerns in relation to the Basin have stayed pretty much the same as last year's research. So, could you talk to us a little bit about that? Could you talk to us about what some of those concerns are?

PM: Absolutely. This list is largely reflective of what we were hearing last year as well, which really supports that triangulation of findings across the different years. Generally, community members are talking about concerns around the distribution and allocation of water across different uses in the Basin, the sustainability of water take, water supply, and water levels, and also the quality of water and water pollution. So, that's obviously something front and foremost when people are out and about and seeing the waterways in their local areas that they have concerns around.

Speaker: If you like this episode of *Water's Edge*, make sure you like our other social media channels. Connect with us on LinkedIn - search for IGWC. You can also subscribe to our YouTube page via @IGWCAU.

AD: What are the issues that you are concerned about in the Basin?

Speaker: The Darling River - having water in it.

Speaker: I probably wouldn't know too much. But I guess flooding and stuff is the main thing, to make sure that we don't... Or the opposite, having drought, and using too much water.

Speaker: Not enough water. I dunno?

Speaker: Not clean enough water?

Speaker: Yes.

Speaker: It affects the farmers and it affects the local communities and how they get their water. It's because it's so distant from the ocean, from all sorts of other water sources.

AD: What are the issues that you're concerned about in the Basin?

Speaker: Oh, well, we've got to enable equity for the farmers, because farmers feed the nation. However, we've got the risk of how we can conserve our waterways. and the risks that we've had with the algae. The blue algae. And then there's the risk with the fish and introduced species.

AD: We do have a marquee a little further down, so if it's something you're interested in learning more about, we've got some field officers who are based up in Queensland. It's worth having a chat to them about those issues - they're all over it.

Speaker: Got a question that you would like answered on *Water's Edge*? You can email us via contact@iwc.gov.au. Make sure you put '*Water's Edge* podcast' in the subject line.

AD: On the point about water quality, Troy received a question as the Inspector-General of Water Compliance.

RP: Hi, my name is Rob Pierce, and I am a riparian landowner on the Murray River, downstream of Corowa, New South Wales. My question to the Inspector-General of Water Compliance is: what is the Inspector-General's role in ensuring water quality is maintained and water quality targets are met across the Murray-Darling Basin? Thank you.

TG: Yeah, thanks, Rob, for the question. Corowa - what a beautiful part of the world that is. The Inspector-General is the sole enforcement agency for water resource plans, commonly referred to as WRPs. My role is to monitor and provide independent oversight on how Basin states are meeting their water management obligations. Water quality management plans are included in the Basin plan and WRPs. It has the measures that a Basin jurisdiction uses to respond to an extreme event which affects water quality such as flood and drought. These plans identify key causes of water quality, degradation and risks, and also targets for water quality and salinity. They also specify cost-effective

measures to achieve water quality objectives. Once a WRP has been in operation for 12 months, my team can monitor compliance against water quality targets to make sure they're being met or addressed if they're not. WRPs are just one tool and if they're not in place - which has been the issue in New South Wales, and why I've been so strident in ensuring and calling on them to be accredited - then water quality targets that are set out administratively just can't be enforced. So, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is obligated to annually assess the performance against water quality targets, and evaluates Basin plan water quality outcomes every five years.

AD: Speaking of complying with water rules and regulations, the IGWC community sentiment survey has insight on that, too.

PM: So, we've actually seen community members more likely to agree that it's easy to comply with the water rules and regulations. But we haven't seen the same uptick among the water license holders who are actually the ones complying with those water rules and regulations. Interestingly, though - and this will definitely be something to track over time - we actually had a decline in the number of water license holders who said that they were very likely to comply with the water rules and regulations. In 2022, the percentage saying that they were very likely was 84%. This went down to 74% in 2023. So, quite a significant decrease there and something that we'll definitely be interested in tracking over time.

AD: Do we have any context to why we think that's happening, or is this a watch and wait?

PM: I think this one's a bit of a watch and wait. It wasn't something that we heard through the qualitative research findings, and we did have a smaller sample with water license holders, given it was a bit of a snapshot. So, definitely it'll be one to explore in the next year's research program.

AD: We've got our bigger report happening next year. What are you going to keep an eye on for the next report?

PM: Definitely it will be interesting to keep an eye around the compliance of water license holders and their likelihood of complying because that's critical to this whole piece. But also tracking the Basin plan and the sentiment towards that will be really interesting to see. Is it just sort of a dip, based on that sort of discourse that was happening around the water bill, at the time? Or is it a more ongoing sort of decline in sentiment towards the Basin plan?

AD: And, after reading the IGWC community sentiment survey, Penny isn't the only one with questions. Regular *Water's Edge* listener Kelsey had this question for the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Troy Grant.

KB: My name is Kelsey Burns. I'm a PhD student with the University of Sydney living in Mildura. My question to the Inspector-General of Water Compliance is: What are the levers available that could shift the view of water in the Murray-Darling Basin from an asset for individual states or industries to an Australian resource? And, if this were achieved, what impact does the Inspector-General envision this would have on the management of water?

- TG: Yeah, great question, Kelsey. The baseline evidence we use is a sentiment survey that ORIMA would do on our behalf that's really informative. It demonstrates clearly the lack of understanding of the Murray-Darling Basin. Even whether people are inside the Murray-Darling Basin or they're not! Even a lot of water license holders are unaware that they're in the Basin and subject to the Basin plan itself. So, it becomes an opportunity to use that as an education piece. So, whenever we communicate, I say to my team that we're always educating while we're communicating, because there's a lot of work to do there, there's a lot of uplift in that knowledge that needs to happen, and a well understood and implemented Basin plan is how we get the shift. That's really a critical role that we play. This requires the Commonwealth and each of the jurisdictions to also understand the challenges in water management and have constructive collaboration. We supply that research to each of the jurisdictions, so they're aware of what the community is saying, and they can factor that into their water management decisions and their operations as well, to hopefully continue to build that confidence. But it's all about having a robust and transparent water trade market as well. It's also needed to allow efficient allocation and flexibility to buy and sell water, and incentivise people to conserve water as well. So, to effectively manage water across the Basin is to improve water security for all water users and the environment and make the Basin more resilient, ultimately, in the face of ultimate climate change challenges. And the reality is that we're really hard on ourselves, and we're often very critical of each other in how we're going there. But water resource management, at a national level? Australia really is leading the way. That doesn't mean we're complacent or we're satisfied with that - and we're not. But we should also acknowledge that we are doing it a lot better than a lot of other countries as well.
- AD: The IGWC Community Sentiment Survey is published on the Inspector-General's website, www.igwc.gov.au. Still to come this season on *Water's Edge*: plans for a follow-up trade price reporting investigation by the IGWC audits and investigations team.
- Speaker: If we're going to look again, familiarise yourself with the legislation, ask questions, and if you're not sure, then don't do it. Find out.
- AD: A report card on metering compliance across the Murray-Darling Basin. How's your jurisdiction tracking ahead of the 2025 metering reform deadline?
- Speaker: There are concerns in the community that water isn't being metered, that we don't understand how much water is being taken from the Basin. We are starting to see some patterns in the metering report card.
- AD: And how do the Inspector-General of Water Compliance's inquiry powers work?
- Speaker: One of the key powers that exists is the Inspector-General has the capability to compel information from someone provided that it assists the inquiry that he is running.
- Speaker: *Water's Edge* is produced by the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Australian Government, Canberra. The Inspector-General of Water Compliance is an independent statutory office holder with oversight, monitoring, regulatory functions and powers established under the Water Act 2007. For more information on what we do, visit our website at: iwc.gov.au

