



Australian Government



Inspector-  
General of  
Water  
Compliance

## WATER'S EDGE: TRANSCRIPT

### S1, Episode 1: 'Who is Troy Grant?'

- Speaker: *Water's Edge* podcast acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout the Murray-Darling Basin and Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to the elders past, present, and emerging.
- Speaker: This is *Water's Edge* and welcome to the conversation.
- AH: I'm your host, Annabel Hudson. I'll be speaking to experts in the field alongside the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Troy Grant. Troy, would you mind telling us a little bit about yourself?
- TG: Well, I've lived my life, professionally, working for the public - firstly in policing, and now in the role of Inspector-General of Water Compliance. For an 8-year period I was in the New South Wales Parliament as the member for Dubbo and across a few ministerial portfolios. So, I'm a country boy, born and bred, born in the Hunter, raised mostly in the New England and Namoi area, and then professionally I've worked right throughout western New South Wales, both in the northern and southern basin.
- AH: And how did you become the Inspector-General of Water Compliance?
- TG: I was recommended by the former interim Inspector-General, Mick Keelty, who was a former AFP commissioner. He consulted with a lot of people, including former water ministers and other stakeholders. I was one of those people and he believed that I had the skills. I did some work with him in Parliament, as well. He did a review of the Tathra fires for me when I was Emergency Services minister. So, we knew of each other professionally that way. He was unable to continue in the role, and he nominated me to the Minister at the time as someone that might be suitable for the role. And I was asked if I was interested and asked to submit my credentials, which I did. And I was ultimately appointed by the cabinet and then the Governor General.
- AH: As a bit of an introduction to the Inspector-General's office, Troy, if you wouldn't mind giving us a bit of a rundown of what I guess our mission and our purpose is?
- TG: The role was created to provide an independent body to oversee, inquire into, and investigate elements of the Basin plan. It was generated by frustration that the Basin plan objectives weren't being met, and that there was a lack of trust and transparency around what jurisdictions were doing, including the Commonwealth, in being able to meet the plan. So, originally there was a Northern Basin Commissioner's role. That role identified some issues regarding some myths that were out there. There's a lot of competition and mistrust between the northern

and southern basins. So, the role was then expanded across the whole Basin as the Interim Inspector-General, which was then ultimately created into a statutory body. So, the mission of the office is for us to provide transparency and accountability against the Basin plan.

Speaker: *Water's Edge* is produced by the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Australian Government, Canberra. For more information, visit [www.iwc.gov.au](http://www.iwc.gov.au).