

## **AWADHESH PRASAD**

Contact: (02)6279 0144 (w); (02) 6255 6285 (h) 0411 773 296 (m)  
[Awadhesh.Prasad@mdba.gov.au](mailto:Awadhesh.Prasad@mdba.gov.au); Awadhesh.Prasad@outlook.com

### **SUMMARY**

I have over two decades of experience in the environment sector in research, policy development and program and project administration. For the last 16 years, I have delivered high quality outcomes in a challenging multi-jurisdictional environment comprising six governments through effective team leadership, prudent budget management and constructive negotiations. I have also made international contributions to environmental management through UNESCO. For the major part of my career, I have been working for Australia's Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Authority (MDBA). MDBA is responsible for the planning and management of water and other natural resources of the MDB, which spreads over 1 million square kilometres across five Australian states. It is an interjurisdictional body comprising the five MDB states and the federal government of Australia. Here, I have led the implementation of a major environmental policy—the MDB Cap on diversions for 14 years. I have simultaneously enabled the MDBA's broader environmental agenda encompassing the river operations, cap, water trade, environmental water and salinity management by supporting its high-level policy development and auditing committees. In my early career, I worked for a decade in India in the public sector.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Doctor of Philosophy (Env. Performance Auditing), Australian National University, Canberra
- Master of Environmental Law, Australian National University, Canberra
- Master of Science (Hydrology), Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide
- Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications, Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
- Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Ranchi University, India

### **PRINCIPAL AREAS OF EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES**

- Policy and program development and implementation in a multijurisdictional environment
- Institutional, scientific and people aspects of environmental management
- Multilateral collaboration and coordination
- Negotiation and representation at national and international level
- Regulation, enforcement, compliance and performance auditing
- Investigation, review, analysis, assessment and report writing
- Domestic and international environmental law

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Assessed the adequacy of the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)'s actions for implementing statutory strategies to address the risks to the availability of water resources
- Successfully led the implementation of the MDB Cap on water diversions for fourteen years
- Led the development of the strategic MDB climate change investigation program and the establishment of a multilateral research partnership, the South-East Australia Climate Initiative
- Led the successful negotiation of amendments to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement for Cap administration and environmental water accounting
- Led compliance with MDB policies e.g. Cap, Salinity, The Living Murray, River Operations
- Led several successful projects including Return Flows and Farm Dams investigations, Estimating Floodplain Harvesting and Bulk Water Off-take Registry development
- Established UNESCO's MDB Hydrology for Environment Life and Policy (HELP) initiative
- Organised an award-winning field trip for the Rosenberg International Water Forum

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**July 2016 – Present**

*Asst. Director, Estimation System, Murray-Darling Basin Authority*  
Develop the application of remote sensing in water management

<b>Nov 2014 – June 2016</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Assistant Director, Groundwater Murray-Darling Basin Authority</i> Assess the MDB states' groundwater plans for accreditation under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan
<b>July 2014 – Oct 2014</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Director, Risk Strategy, Murray-Darling Basin Authority</i> Lead the assessment of implementation of risk strategies under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan
<b>Mar 2013 – Jun 2014</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Director, Cap Transition, Murray-Darling Basin Authority</i> Lead the transition of systems and processes of the Cap to the sustainable diversion limits (SDLs) implementation
<b>Dec 2011 – Feb 2013</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Director, Ind. Audit Coordination Murray-Darling Basin Authority</i> Lead the implementation of the Cap on surface water diversions Lead water Accounting Coordinate the annual audit of program implementation - The Living Murray; The Cap; The River Murray Operations; and The Basin Salinity Management Strategy
<b>Dec 2007 – Nov 2011</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Director, Cap Implementation, Murray-Darling Basin Authority (Murray-Darling Basin Commission until Nov 2008)</i> Lead the implementation of the Cap on surface water diversions Lead technical development and support audit and review groups
<b>Nov 2000 – Nov 2007</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Cap Management Engineer, Murray-Darling Basin Commission</i> Manage the implementation of the Cap on surface water diversions Advise on climate change and support technical & policy groups
<b>Aug 1999 – Nov 2000</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Groundwater Hydrologist, CSIRO, Land and Water</i> Undertake groundwater research
<b>Feb 1998 – Jul 1999</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Postgraduate Student, Flinders University Adelaide</i> Undertake groundwater research
<b>Mar 1987 - Jan 1998</b> <b>Principal Responsibilities</b>	<i>Engineering roles, various organisations, Australia and overseas</i> Technical advice and project management

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Member, Advisory Council, ANU-UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Trans-boundary Water Governance, Jul 2010 – Jun 2013
- Coordinator, UNESCO's MDB Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) initiative, March 2009 - Dec 2012
- Member, UNESCO's Expert Panel on Capacity Building in Water Res. Mgmt, Feb 2009 – Jul 2012
- Theme leader, Trans-boundary Water Management, HELP program, Nov 2008 – June 2011
- Member, National Metering Expert Group, Dec 2005 – Dec 2009
- Member, Co-operative Research Centre for Climate Risk Technologies Board, Jan-Dec 2004

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Poetry Books - 3
- International refereed journal papers – 3
- International special publication reports – 3
- Technical reports – 9
- Other journal and conference papers – 12

### **LANGUAGES**

- English, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi

## **PUBLICATIONS LIST**

### ***Books***

- Prasad A**, Khamoshiyan (Silence) – Hindi poems collection, Kalawati Publication, New Delhi, 2008  
**Prasad A** Tanhaiyan (Loneliness) - Hindi poems collection, Kalawati Publication, New Delhi, 2010  
**Prasad A** Chiragon Ki Katar (Rows of Lamps) - Hindi poems collection, Kalawati Publication, New Delhi, 2010

### ***Papers***

- **Prasad, A.**, 2016 Global Trends in Performance Auditing of Environmental Policy and Programs Implementation. Paper submitted to the *International Conference on Sustainable Development and Livelihoods*, Kuala Lumpur, 26-28 August 2016.
- **Prasad A.**, 2014. Assessment of the implementation of the Basin Plan's Chapter 4 - risk management strategies, An internal report, MDBA Canberra
- **Prasad A.**, 2014. Annualising the long-term environmental water recovery – A policy paper. MDBA Canberra
- **Prasad A.**, 2013. Change in the reliability of entitlements of one user type due to the change in the use pattern of the other user type, An internal report, MDBA Canberra
- **Prasad A.**, 2013. Trigger for Diversion Limit Compliance Testing – A Technical report, MDBA Canberra
- **Prasad A.**, 2012. Review of the Authority's Independent Audit and Review Groups – A discussion paper, MDBA, Canberra
- **Prasad A.**, 2011. The Murray-Darling Basin Australia's journey of sustainability, *Journal of Hydrologic Environment* 7(1) – ISSN: 1738-8449
- **Prasad A.**, 2010. Use of modern tools and techniques in water resources management – a discussion paper – MDBA Technical Report 2010/11, MDBA Canberra
- **Prasad A.**, 2010. Use of modern technologies in estimating unaccounted water uses in Murray-Darling Basin, Australia, in Proc. of the tenth IHP/IAHS George Kovacs Colloquium at UNESCO, Paris, 2–3 July 2010: *Hydrocomplexity: New Tools for Solving Wicked Water Problems*
- **Prasad A.**, 2009. Role of models in water and environmental regulation in the Murray-Darling Basin, UNESCO/AMSI Future Water and Energy Modeling Workshop, Brisbane Australia 20-22 July 2009
- **Prasad A.**, 2009. Sustainable Water Management through Education: the Murray-Darling Basin Experience, UNESCO's Asian Regional Workshop on Water Education, Jakarta 11-12 February 2009
- **Prasad A.**, 2008. Murray-Darling Basin, Australia: A Success Story in Trans-boundary Water Management, IV International Symposium on Trans-boundary Waters Management, Thessaloniki, Greece, 15th – 18th October 2008.
- **Prasad A.**, and Close A. 2005, Assessing the impacts of climate change and variability on the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin – expectations from the climate research, 2005. Conference handbook, Greenhouse 2005, Action on Climate Change, Melbourne 13-17 November 2005, pp 133
- **Prasad A.**, 2005. Strategies to Cope With the Climate Variability and Change in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia, Stockholm Water Symposium, Workshop 2 -23 August 2005 [http://www.worldwaterweek.org/stockholmwatersymposium/Abstract\\_Volume\\_05/Workshop%20%20-%20Sammanst%40ning\(6\).htm](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/stockholmwatersymposium/Abstract_Volume_05/Workshop%20%20-%20Sammanst%40ning(6).htm)
- **Prasad A.**, and Simmons, C. T., 2004. Using quantitative indicators to evaluate results from variable-density groundwater flow models, *Hydrogeology Journal*, 10.1007/s10040-004-0338-0.
- S Khan, **A Prasad**, J Blackwell and T Rana 2004. Evidence, Stakeholder Perspectives and Adaptation Options For Climate Change in the Murray Darling Basin, Submitted for Special Publication by Dialogue On Water And Climate (DWC).
- **Prasad A.**, and Foreman, J. 2004. Cap Model Report for the South Australian "All Other Uses of water from the River Murray" Cap – MDBC Technical Report 2004/2, MDBC Canberra, ACT 2601
- **Prasad A.**, and Simmons, C. T., 2003. Unstable density-driven flow in heterogeneous porous media: A stochastic study of the Elder (1967b) "short-heater" problem, *Water Resources Research*, 39(1) 1007, doi:10.1029/2002WR001290.
- **Prasad A.**, and Khan, S., 2002. Synthesis Report on the Murray-Darling Basin Dialogue on Water and Climate, River Symposium, Brisbane September 2002.
- **Prasad A.**, 2002. Evidence, Stakeholder Perspectives and Adaptation Options for Climate Change in Murray Darling Basin in Prasad A and Khan, S. (ed) Synthesis Report on the Murray-Darling Basin Dialogue on Water and Climate, River Symposium, Brisbane September 2002
- **Prasad A.**, and Close A. F., 2001. Analysis of Irrigation Returns from Irrigation Districts in New South Wales and Victoria, MDBC Technical report 2002/3, MDBC Canberra, Act 2601.

- **Prasad A.**, Christen E. W., and Khan S., 2001. The potential for deep groundwater pumping in the control of irrigation-induced salinity in the riverine plain: A case study of the Coleambally Irrigation Area, CSIRO Land and Water Technical Report No 01-01, Griffith NSW 2680.
- **Prasad A.**, and Close A. F., 2001. Economic and environmental impacts of development on the Condamine, Moonie and Border Rivers in Queensland on the Murray and Lower Darling Rivers, MDBC Technical Report 2000/6, MDBC Canberra, ACT 2601.
- **Prasad A.**, and Christen E. W., 2000. Potential of shallow groundwater pumping in the CIA: A CSIRO Land and Water, Griffith Technical Report.
- Christen E. W, **Prasad A.** and Khan S., 2000. Annual net recharge analysis for the Coleambally Irrigation Area using piezometric data Technical report 01 -01 CSIRO Land and Water Griffith, NSW 2680.
- **Prasad A.**, Simmons, C. T., and Narayan, K.A., 1999. On the use of the Rayleigh number in variable- density groundwater flow problems, Proc. Of The Joint congress of the 25<sup>th</sup> Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water Resources and Environmental Research "Water 99", Brisbane, Vol. 2, 1076-1081.
- Naraian, K.D, Thakur, D.K., and **Prasad A.** 1994, Sone High Level Canal Project, Bihar - A success story, Indian Journal of Power and River Valley Development Vol. XLIV, Nos 3 & 4 March-April, 1994.