

# **Environmental Flows and Governance in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia**

IWEGA International Seminar

**Prof. Quentin Grafton**

Australian National University & UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and  
Transboundary Water Governance

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*Abstract:*

The presentation will discuss the past and current governance arrangements in the Murray-Darling Basin and the implications for water allocations to the environment. The paper compares actual water allocations to an alternative that considers the trade-off between the opportunity cost of reduced extractions to agriculture and the economic benefits from increased environmental flows.

*Prof. Quentin Grafton' biographical resume:*

R. Quentin Grafton is Professor of Economics at the Crawford School of Economics and Government in the College of Asia and Pacific, the Australian National University (ANU) and Honorary Professor of Economics at the University of Otago. He is Co-Chair of the ANU Water Initiative, Director of the Centre for Water Economics, Environment and Policy (CWEPP) and Chairholder, ANU-UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance.

His current research in water includes market-based water recovery in the Murray-Darling Basin, rural water trading, water demand, urban water pricing and adaptation to climate change. He has also held the position of Chair of the Social and Economic Reference Panel for the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and is currently Co-editor of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, a former Associate Editor of Marine Resource Economics (1998-2001), and a former Guest Editor of the International Journal of Global Environmental Issues. He also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal Environment and Development Economics, the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, International Journal of Environmental Economics, and Economics Research International.