55–57 – The Water Act 2007 (Cwth) requires the MDBA to have regard to interception activities when developing the Basin plan.

The Basin plan requires water resource plans to manage interception and details how interception is to be included in water resource plans, which are to be developed and implemented by 2019.

The Commission engaged Barma Water Resources to conduct a synthesis and analysis of methods for quantifying the impacts of interception activities in Australia.

The report, Synthesis and analysis of methods for quantifying the impact of interception activities in Australia (2013), investigated the various quantification models and methods, their accuracy, resourcing requirements and impediments to using them.

The MDBA undertook a project on the technical robustness and accuracy of methods used to estimate interception take and how they could be improved. Interception estimates were calculated and used to establish Basin plan SDLs.