



ANNO UNDECIMO

GEORGI V REGIS.

A.D. 1920.

No. 1450.

An Act to ratify an Agreement for the Variation of the Agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, respecting the River Murray and Lake Victoria and other Waters, and to amend the River Murray Waters Acts, 1915.

[Assented to, December 9th, 1920.]

WHEREAS on the ninth day of September, one thousand Preamble.
nine hundred and fourteen, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting for and on behalf of the Commonwealth, and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, acting for and on behalf of those States respectively, entered into an Agreement (in this Act referred to as "the said Agreement") respecting the River Murray and Lake Victoria and other Waters, subject to ratification by the Parliament of the Commonwealth and the Parliaments of the said States:

And whereas the Parliament of the Commonwealth and the Parliaments of the said States have ratified and approved the said Agreement:

And whereas the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting for and on behalf of the Commonwealth, and the Premier of the State of Victoria and certain responsible Ministers of the Crown of the States of New South Wales and South Australia, acting for and on behalf of those States respectively, have entered into an agreement (in this Act referred to as "the amending Agreement") to vary the said Agreement, subject to ratification by the Parliament of the Commonwealth and the Parliaments of the said States:
And

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And whereas it is desirable to ratify and approve the amending Agreement:

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor of the State of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Parliament thereof, as follows:—

- Short titles.** **1.** (1) This Act may be cited alone as the “River Murray Waters Acts Amendment Act, 1920.”
- (2) The River Murray Waters Acts, 1915, and this Act may be cited together as the “River Murray Waters Acts, 1915 to 1920.”
- No. 1186 of 1915.** (3) The River Murray Waters Act, 1915, is hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act.”
- Incorporation with other Acts.** **2.** This Act is incorporated with the other Acts mentioned in section 1 of this Act, and those Acts and this Act shall be read as one Act.
- Commencement.** **3.** This Act shall commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.
- Act to bind the Crown.** **4.** This Act shall bind the Crown.
- Repeal of Act 1230, 1915, s. 5.** **5.** Section 5 of the River Murray Waters Amendment Act, 1915, is repealed.
- Ratification of amending agreement.** **6.** The amending Agreement, a copy of which is set out in section 14 of this Act, is by this Act ratified and approved.
- Amendment of Preamble to principal Act.** **7.** The Preamble to the principal Act is amended by omitting the word “Schedule” and inserting in its stead the words “First Schedule.”
- Definitions.** **8.** Section 4 of the principal Act is amended—
- (a) by omitting the definition of “Constructing Authority”; and
- (b) by omitting from the definition of “The Agreement” the word “Schedule” and inserting in its stead the words “First Schedule, as amended by the Agreement, a copy of which is set out in the Second Schedule”.
- Ratification of Agreement.** **9.** Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after the word “Agreement”, the passage “a copy of which is set out in the First Schedule”.
- 10.** (1) After section 8 of the principal Act, but under the heading “*Powers and Duties of the Commission*” the following section is inserted:—
- Commission to be a body corporate.** 8A. (1) Subject to and for the purposes of the Agreement and the Acts ratifying the same, the body incorporated under the Act of the Parliament of the Commonwealth ratifying the amending

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amending Agreement under the name of "The River Murray Commission" shall, within South Australia, have and may exercise the like powers and authorities and be subject to the like obligations and liabilities as if it were a corporation incorporated under the law of South Australia.

(2) The Commission shall, within South Australia, have and may exercise all the powers and authorities and be subject to all the obligations and liabilities conferred or imposed upon it by the Act of the Parliament of the Commonwealth ratifying the amending Agreement.

(3) All Courts, Judges, and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the seal of the Commission affixed to any document or notice, and shall deem that it was duly affixed.

(2) All subsisting contracts entered into by the Commissioner of Public Works for the purposes of the principal Act, or the agreement thereby ratified, are hereby assigned to the Commission as so incorporated as aforesaid.

11. Section 26 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section inserted in its stead:—

26. (1) No action, claim, or proceeding whatsoever shall be maintainable for or in respect of any damage occasioned by the construction, maintenance, operation, or control of any works under this Act, but the Commission or the State Contracting Government to which the works have been transferred, as the case may be, shall, subject to this section, be liable to make compensation to the person suffering the damage.

Claims for compensation.

(2) No such compensation shall be made unless—

(a) notice in writing, stating the nature and extent of the damage complained of, has been furnished, within six months after the alleged damage has occurred, to the Commission or the State Contracting Government, as the case may be; and

(b) after giving the notice, the person claiming compensation proceeds without unreasonable delay to obtain the compensation.

12. Section 32 of the principal Act is amended—

Works exempt from rates and taxes.

(a) by inserting after the word "by" in the fourth line the words "the Commission or"; and

(b) by omitting the words "or Constructing Authority".

13. The Schedule to the principal Act is amended by omitting the heading "The Schedule" and inserting in its stead the heading "The First Schedule".

First Schedule.

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Second Schedule.

14. The principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following Schedule:—

“ THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

THE AMENDING AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made the twenty-third day of November One thousand nine hundred and twenty between the Right Honorable William Morris Hughes Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of the first part the Honorable John Estell Minister for Public Works of the State of New South Wales for and on behalf of that State of the second part the Honorable Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson Premier of the State of Victoria for and on behalf of that State of the third part and the Honorable John George Bice Chief Secretary of the State of South Australia for and on behalf of that State of the fourth part.

WHEREAS on the ninth day of September One thousand nine hundred and fourteen an Agreement was entered into by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, with regard to the economical use of the waters of the River Murray and its tributaries for irrigation and navigation and to the reconciling of the interests of the Commonwealth and the said States which agreement was ratified by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Parliaments of the said States and which agreement is hereinafter referred to as the Principal Agreement :

And whereas at Conferences between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Premiers of the said States held on the twenty-fifth day of May and the twentieth day of July One thousand nine hundred and twenty certain resolutions were agreed to with a view to expediting the construction of the works provided for under the Principal Agreement :

And whereas in order to carry into effect the last-mentioned resolutions it is deemed desirable to enter into this Agreement :

NOW IT IS HEREBY FURTHER AGREED as follows:—

I.—*Ratification and Enforcement.*

Ratification.

1. This Agreement is subject to ratification by the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales Victoria and South Australia ; and shall come into effect when so ratified.

Submission to Parliament.

2. The Contracting Governments hereby agree to submit this Agreement for ratification to the respective Parliaments of the Commonwealth and of the said States during the present session of any such Parliament or if any such Parliament is not in session at the date of this Agreement then at the first session of such Parliament held after the date of this Agreement.

Contracting Governments to provide for enforcement of Agreement and Acts.

Each of the Contracting Governments so far as its jurisdiction extends and so far as it may be necessary shall provide for or secure the execution and enforcement of the provisions of this Agreement and any Acts ratifying the same.

Incorporation in Principal Agreement.

3. On and after the date of ratification of this Agreement, the Principal Agreement shall be read and construed as if the amendments made therein by this Agreement were incorporated therein.

II.—*Amendment of Principal Agreement.*

Incorporation of Commission.

4. Clause 4 of the Principal Agreement is amended by adding at the end thereof the following words:—

“ The members of the Commission and their successors shall be constituted a body corporate, by the name of ‘ The River Murray Commission ’ for the purposes of, and subject to, this Agreement and any Acts ratifying the same.”

5. Clause

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5. Clause 6 of the Principal Agreement is amended—

Quorum.

- (a) by omitting the word "all" and inserting in its stead the words "at least three-fourths"; and
 (b) by inserting after the word "dissimilar" the words "or any business relating to the appointment of officers by the Commission."

6. Clauses 12 13 and 14 of the Principal Agreement are omitted and the following clauses inserted in their stead:—

"12. The Commission may from time to time appoint or employ such and so many officers and servants as it thinks fit and remove or dismiss them and all such officers and servants shall be subject to the sole control of the Commission, and the rates of payment and conditions of employment of such officers and servants shall be determined by the Commission :

Officers and servants.

Provided that with a view to preventing duplication of the machinery necessary for carrying out this Agreement the Commission—

- (a) shall as far as possible appoint as its officers persons who are officers in the service of a State Contracting Government and who are suitable for the work to be performed and who at the date on which this clause comes into effect are mainly engaged on works provided for in this Agreement; and
 (b) may with due regard to economy and the expeditious and satisfactory performance of the work of the Commission arrange with any State Contracting Government for the preparation by officers of that Government of designs of works to be constructed under this Agreement and for the performance by such officers of any work or services other than such preparation of designs of works.

A Contracting Government shall place at the disposal of the Commission the services of any person employed on its professional or clerical staffs if the services of such person are required for and in the opinion of the Contracting Government are available for the construction of the works provided for in this Agreement: Provided that a State Contracting Government shall not be required to place at the disposal of the Commission the services of any such person who was not at the date on which this clause comes into effect mainly engaged on the construction of such works.

The Commission may arrange with a Contracting Government for any matters which may require to be adjusted with regard to the payment for work done for or services rendered to the Commission by any person in the service of or employed by such Contracting Government.

The services of any person in the service of or employed by a Contracting Government may be made use of in part by the Commission and in part by the Contracting Government.

Where any arrangement is made in pursuance of this clause with a State Contracting Government for the preparation by officers of that Government of designs of works to be constructed under this Agreement or for the performance of any other work or services such State Contracting Government shall insure that there shall be no delay in the execution of any work under such arrangement.

"13. The Governments of New South Wales Victoria and South Australia shall take steps to have referred to the Parliament of the Commonwealth by the Parliaments of their respective States the following matters namely:—

Special tribunal for settlement of industrial disputes.

- (a) the appointment of a special tribunal for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes arising in connexion with the construction of the works provided for under this Agreement; and
 (b) the powers and functions of the special tribunal."

7. Clause 21 of the Principal Agreement is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following sub-clause:—

Responsibility for construction.

- "(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the last preceding sub-clause all the works provided for in this Agreement in so far as they have not been constructed before this sub-clause comes into effect shall be constructed by the Commission.

Any work which at the date on which this sub-clause comes into effect has been partly constructed shall be transferred to the Commission."

8. After

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8. After clause 21 of the Principal Agreement the following clause is inserted :—

Plant to be handed over to Commission.

“ 21A. All plant which at the date on which this clause comes into effect a State Contracting Government is using exclusively or has ordered for exclusive use in connexion with the construction of the works provided for in this Agreement shall be handed over to the Commission.

The Commission shall pay to the State Contracting Government—

- (a) in respect of any such plant so handed over which at the date on which this clause comes into effect is being used exclusively in connexion with the construction of such works the book value of such plant on the date on which it is handed over ; and
- (b) in respect of any such plant so handed over which at the date on which this clause comes into effect is ordered but not delivered to the State Contracting Government the actual cost to the State Contracting Government of such plant.”

9. Clause 23 of the Principal Agreement is omitted and the following clause inserted in its stead :—

Preparation of designs and estimates by Commission.

“ 23. The Commission shall before commencing the construction of any of the works to be constructed under this Agreement prepare designs and estimates of such work. Copies of any such designs and estimates prepared by the Commission after this clause comes into effect shall be forwarded to the Contracting Governments for their information.

In determining the sites at which weirs and locks are to be constructed the Commission shall so far as practicable after consultation with the State Contracting Governments concerned have regard to the suitability of the sites for the purpose also of affording convenient offtakes for irrigation requirements.

The construction of the work shall be carried out in accordance with designs prepared by the Commission.

Any designs estimates or sites which have been approved by the Commission before this clause comes into effect shall be deemed to have been prepared or determined by the Commission in accordance with this clause.”

10. Clause 24 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the first paragraph thereof and inserting in its stead the following paragraph :—

Commencement of continuous works.

“ The construction of works which are provided for under this Agreement and the construction of which has not been commenced before this paragraph comes into effect shall be commenced by the Commission as soon as may be after this paragraph comes into effect ; and the construction of those works and of works the construction of which has been commenced before this paragraph comes into effect (and which are hereby declared to be specially urgent) shall be continued without cessation (other than as may be due to unavoidable causes) until all of such works are completed.”

11. Clause 25 of the Principal Agreement is omitted and the following clause inserted in its stead :—

Handing over, and maintenance of work.

“ 25. On completion of any work—

- (a) constructed at points between the mouth of the River Murray and the inlet to Frenchman's Creek or at the inlet to Frenchman's Creek (including the Lake Victoria Works) the Commission shall hand such work over to the Government of South Australia ;
- (b) constructed on the River Murrumbidgee or on the River Darling above Wentworth (as the case may be) the Commission shall hand such work over to the Government of New South Wales ;
- (c) constructed on the River Murray above the inlet to Frenchman's Creek the Commission shall hand such work over to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria severally or jointly as may be mutually agreed upon by those Governments or in default of such agreement as may be determined by the Commission,

and the Government to which any such work is handed over shall thenceforth be responsible for the maintenance of such work and for keeping the same effective for the purposes for which it was designed.”

12. Clause

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12. Clause 26 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the words “by which it was constructed” and inserting in their stead the words “to which it is handed over.”

Dredging and snagging.

13. Clause 27 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the words “constructed by” and inserting in their stead the words “handed over to”.

Operation and control of works and collection of tolls.

14. Clause 28 of the Principal Agreement is omitted and the following clause inserted in its stead :—

“ 28. The Commission shall have full power to determine—

Power of Commission in respect of carrying out of Agreement.

- (i) the order in point of time of the construction of the works provided for in this Agreement and in so determining shall have special regard to such works as will serve the dual purpose of irrigation and navigation ;
- (ii) the rate of progress of works whether of construction or maintenance ;
- (iii) the method and extent of maintenance of works ; and
- (iv) if necessary what works shall be regarded as works of construction or of maintenance,

and shall have full power to order and direct such acts and things as it considers necessary for carrying out this Agreement.”

15. Clause 29 of the Principal Agreement is omitted and the following clauses inserted in its stead :—

“ 29. A Contracting Government within whose State any works for the purposes of this Agreement are to be or are being or have been constructed by the Commission or at the date on which this clause comes into effect are being or have been constructed by another Contracting Government or any authority constituted or appointed for the purpose of such construction shall grant to the Commission or to the Contracting Government to which the works are handed over in accordance with this Agreement all such powers licences and permissions in and to the use of or with respect to its territory as may be necessary for the construction maintenance operation and control of such works and for carrying out any operations authorized by this Agreement.

State Government to facilitate construction and operations within their territories.

“ 29A. A State Contracting Government which is controlling or operating any work under this Agreement shall insure that when so desired by the Commission during the period of the construction of the works provided for in this Agreement reasonable notice shall be given to the Commission before any water stored in any such work is released.”

Notice to be given to Commission before water is released.

16. Clause 30 of the Principal Agreement is amended—

- (a) by inserting after “Agreement” (first occurring) the words “except clause 43 hereof” ;
- (b) by inserting, after the word “constructed”, the words “by or on behalf of the said Governments jointly or severally.”

Works for joint benefit of New South Wales and Victoria.

17. Clause 32 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting all words after the words “Governments in” and inserting in their stead the words “equal proportions.”

Apportionment of cost of construction.

18. Clause 34 of the Principal Agreement is omitted and the following clause inserted in its stead :—

“ 34. The Commission shall in the month of March of each year prepare and forward to each of the Contracting Governments a detailed estimate of the amount of money required during the twelve months from the first day of July then next ensuing for all expenditure pursuant to this Agreement (other than expenses of the Commission or salaries and expenses of Commissioners) showing the manner in which it is proposed to expend such money ; and the Contracting Governments shall each provide one-fourth thereof and pay the same to the Commission as required during the said period of twelve months.

Proposed expenditure in any year.

If in the opinion of the Commission it is necessary in any year to provide for any expenditure in excess of the amount set out in the estimate for that year the Commission shall prepare and forward to each of the Contracting Governments a detailed estimate of such excess expenditure ; and the Contracting Governments shall each provide one-fourth thereof and pay the same to the Commission before the expiration of that year.

If

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If in any one year the amount to be provided by each Contracting Government exceeds the sum of £125,000 the Commonwealth shall advance to each of the other Contracting Governments by way of loan the amount which each Contracting Government is required to pay in excess of that sum.

Any amount so advanced shall bear interest at the rate current at the date of the advance and shall be repayable at a date not less than ten years from the date of the advance to be agreed upon."

Payment by
Commission to
State.

Excess expenditure
in construction.

Compensation for
damage by works.

Tolls.

Failure to perform
works or contribute
costs.

Construction to
be facilitated.

Power to store
water in Lake
Victoria.

19. Clause 35 of the Principal Agreement is omitted.

20. Clause 36 of the Principal Agreement is amended—

(a) by omitting the words "the Commission may pay to the Government constructing such work an amount in excess of that so set out and"; and

(b) by omitting the words "the proportion set out in clause thirty-two of this Agreement" and inserting in their stead the words "equal proportions."

21. Clause 37 of the Principal Agreement is amended—

(a) by omitting the words "a Contracting Government or a Constructing Authority" and inserting in their stead the words "the Commission"; and

(b) by omitting the words "the proportions set out in clause thirty-two of this Agreement" and inserting in their stead the words "equal proportions."

22. Clause 42 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the words "the proportions set out in clause thirty-two of this Agreement" and inserting in their stead the words "equal proportions."

23. Clause 43 of the Principal Agreement is omitted and the following clause inserted in its stead:—

"43. If any Contracting Government whose duty it is under this Agreement or under any direction issued in accordance with this Agreement to maintain operate or control any works, or to carry on any operation or to provide its share of the cost of the maintenance operation or control of any works or of carrying on any operation refuses or neglects to do so after being thereunto required by the Commission, the other Contracting Governments (or any one or more of them) with the sanction of the Commission may without prejudice to their or its other rights under this Agreement maintain operate or control the whole of such works (or any portion thereof specified by the Commission) or carry on such operations (or any part thereof specified as aforesaid) and provide the cost thereof and may in any Court of competent jurisdiction recover as a debt from the Contracting Government so refusing or neglecting the share of such cost to be provided by such Contracting Government in pursuance of this Agreement together with interest on any sums expended at a rate to be determined by the Commission.

If any Contracting Government whose duty it is under this Agreement or under any direction issued in accordance with this Agreement to provide its share of the cost of the construction of any works, refuses or neglects to do so after being thereunto required by the Commission, the other Contracting Governments (or any one or more of them), with the sanction of the Commission, may, without prejudice to their or its other rights under this Agreement provide the share of such cost to be provided by the Contracting Government so refusing or neglecting and may in any Court of competent jurisdiction recover as a debt from such Contracting Government the share of such cost to be provided by such Contracting Government together with interest on any sums expended at a rate to be determined by the Commission."

24. Clause 54 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the words "construction and" and inserting in their stead the words "construction by the Commission and the."

25. Clause 56 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the words "After the commencement of the Lake Victoria Works" and inserting in their stead the words "Until the Lake Victoria Works have been constructed the Commission may in order to meet the requirements of the State of South Australia and thereafter."

26. Clause

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26. Clause 57 of the Principal Agreement is amended—

- (a) by omitting the words “ which subject to any directions of the Commission may ” and inserting in their stead the words “ and the Commission until the Lake Victoria Works have been constructed and thereafter the State of South Australia may ”; and Waters stored in Lake Victoria.
- (b) by inserting after the words “ Provided also that ” the words “ until the Lake Victoria Works have been constructed the Commission and thereafter ”.

27. Clause 58 of the Principal Agreement is amended—

- (a) by omitting the words “ If a difference of opinion arises among the Commissioners ” and inserting in their stead the words “ If the Commissioners are equally divided ”; and Arbitration. Difference to be referred.
- (b) by inserting after the word “ unless ” the words “ at least three of ”.

28. Clause 61 of the Principal Agreement is amended by omitting the definition of “ Constructing Authority ”. Interpretation

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

Signed sealed and delivered by the
above-named WILLIAM MORRIS
HUGHES in the presence of—

W. M. HUGHES.

R. R. GARRAN.

Signed sealed and delivered by the
above-named JOHN ESTELL in
the presence of—

JOHN ESTELL.

R. G. ALLMAN.

Signed sealed and delivered by the
above-named HARRY SUTHER-
LAND WIGHTMAN LAWSON in
the presence of—

H. S. W. LAWSON.

F. SHORT, J.P.

Signed sealed and delivered by the
above-named JOHN GEORGE BICE
in the presence of—

JOHN G. BICE.

A. J. HANNAN.

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty, I hereby assent to
this Bill.

W. E. G. A. WEIGALL, Governor.