



Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan
Chair of the Standing Committee Rural Affairs and Transport
The Senate, Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

The Hon. Tony Catanzariti MLC
Country Labor

14th December 2010

Dear Senator Heffernan,

Please find enclosed my submission to the inquiry. As a citrus grower in Griffith, I am well aware of the impact that the Draft Plan has already had throughout the Basin, and hope that your inquiry might go some way to alleviating that impact.

As you will no doubt be informed by others, confidence in the sectors that rely upon basin water resources has already been severely tested; banks have expressed considerable concerns about their exposure to risk, and irrigation infrastructure operators will face incredible difficulties operating their infrastructure under proposed flow regimes.

I enclose some speeches I have made in Parliament and a selection of letters I have received from constituents. I would appreciate it if you might protect the identities of the people involved in one letter, regarding the suicide of a farmer.

I would appreciate it if you might look into the proposed cuts to the Murrumbidgee. I find these cuts to be outrageous given that the water they wish to take originated from outside of the Murray Darling Basin, and was diverted for the specific purpose of ensuring food security in Australia. That the Snowy Scheme actually adds to the water in the system does not seem to have been taken into account by the Authority.

Given the massive impacts upon present water users, I would also appreciate it if you might look at the issue of engineering for environmental water so as to maximise efficiency in environmental water use.

My staff member John Murray who has a keen interest in social justice, and I would be pleased to assist the Committee with any further information you may require of us.

Yours sincerely

Tony Catanzariti MLC