

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Rural Affairs and Transport
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600
14th December 2010

Dear Sir/Madame,

My family first moved to the Moree district in the early 1850's. I have spent my life living and working on our family property which I now manage with two of my sons.

As farmers we have always paid attention to the weather and have rainfall records going back 150 years. Looking at these records we can see similarities between now and at numerous times in the past. Drought and flood are part of Australia. Agricultural communities and the natural environment have learnt to deal with both drought and flood. Bird numbers are always lower in a drought, but they increase quickly once good rainfall is received.

Those of us with a long term knowledge and understanding of our environments have not been consulted and the proposals put forward show little understanding of the reality on the ground.

In the last 40 years we have seen a lot of changes in our community. Irrigation has been a big contributor to the growth of our town. It is and has always been a big employer in the shire. As agriculture has changed from primarily grazing, to farming and then irrigation, employment has grown, new business has developed and infrastructure has improved. Loss of farm jobs caused by removal of water has already impacted our community; we have lost thousands of people. This has impacted businesses and charity organisations such as Rotary.

My family has made our farm and the Moree Plains Shire its home for over 150 years. We do not support the proposals put forward by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, they put the needs of a small minority group ahead of the lives of the people of the basin.

Yours sincerely,

David Gall