

Submission:- The Murray Darling Basin Plan

Dear Chairman

On the 23rd August 2009 I wrote to the then Prime minister, Mr. Kevin Rudd, with concerns about water buyback (Twynam Co and the NSW Government) and the socio-economic impact on the town of Hay.

I received a reply from the Water Minister, Senator Wongs' office, (that correspondence is enclosed) it states the Twynam Agriculture Group was moving away from irrigated cropping and that there would be very little impact on employment. That statement is wrong. That purchase cost Hay twenty jobs and the NSW State Government Water Buyback for the living rivers initiative the same amount. Approximately 40 jobs.

The federal Agriculture Minister Mr. Tony Burke has stated that there would be compensation to effected irrigation communities. What is not understood is that it is state governments that provide government jobs and services to towns once the driver of a towns population goes (in this case irrigation Agriculture) those jobs and services are with drawn, in Hay we have seen the loss of Police, State Water, Roads and Traffic Authority, School teachers, Hospital Staff (the Hospital is now only a band aid station), three doctors to one. At the recent M.D.B.A Meetings, irrigation communities are now realizing that they will suffer the same fate as Hay when water is removed.

The sad part about the water brought around Hay is that it was the most economical general security water available with regards to transmission loss and water use. Because it was purchased from private river pumpers and not from irrigation districts such as Murray Irrigation and Murrumbidgee Irrigation. With their vast kilometers of channels and diversion. It should have been infustructure up grades to achieve water saving first, then and only then should water have been brought back, to top up those savings.

Thank you

Greg Parr