

The Secretary of the Committee
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

29 November 2010

Dear Senator,

Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport Re: The Management of the Murray Darling Basin

My question to you in relation to the Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan is if the plan goes ahead and water allocations are cut severely, what happens to all the people who are left behind in relation to property values? Will these people be compensated?

For example, if my property is currently worth \$300,000, and the cuts to water proposed in the Guide decimates our community, resulting in my property value dropping to \$100,000, will I be offered \$200,000 in compensation?

The Guide as it currently stands makes no provision for the communities of the Basin who will be heavily impacted upon by the proposed water cuts. It appears to me that there is no plan to compensate everyday citizens, businesses, doctors who live in the towns reliant on the success of irrigated agriculture, but are not farmers themselves. The irrigators can sell their water to the government and rely on these funds to set themselves up somewhere else but I have no protection from the impact this will have on my community.

Senator, please consider the impacts of the water cuts on those left behind, and ensure any future Basin Plan includes measures to mitigate this.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Tonner