

Submission No 110 SC

28/11/10

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the Basin Plan.

My name is Simon Maynard and my family have been in the irrigation industry for the past 43 years. Over the years, we have worked hard at finetuning our irrigation efficiency and crop production techniques which have put us in a position to be financially sustainable with the current water sharing plan. Your proposal to provide more water to the environment would drastically reduce the amount of water in our area and render our business financially unviable.

In the Hay area, we have already lost 50% of our water through 'buy-backs'. If the current proposal goes ahead, this means that a whole industry will be lost in our town. Already, my brother and I have had to let four of our employees go. (Three of these left the area as a result of this) With the current proposal, our remaining employees would also be left without work and my brother and I would face the devastating prospect of being forced to sell our farms (at a dry land price – this would be 10% of its real value as irrigation country). I would no longer be able to grow crops for the nation and my wife, (presently a teacher in the local school), daughter and I will be left with no other option but to join the rest of the masses in the city.

We do appreciate the difficulty that you face in trying to balance the needs of the environment with needs of the community. We understand the importance of river health. However, we do feel that the present plan is too weighted on the side of the environment and we implore you to also give due consideration to our plight and the plight of our community.

If you would like to contact me to discuss this in more detail,

Regards

Simon Maynard.