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## Submission on impact of the Murray Darling Basin Plan in Regional Australia

By Councillor William John Wheeldon of the Wentworth Shire Council

Humans have been completely ignored and in the draft report trees, frogs and everything else gets special treatment.

More water must be introduced into the system and I have done this in a three state outline:

### 1. New South Wales

- a. Clarence River diversion
- b. Another dam above Dartmouth Dam
- c. Urgent desnagging of the Darling River. The Darling is a natural/slopped river, though the falling in of river gums into the bed of the river, water is being forced out onto the dry flood plain which has never been watered before except in times of flood, history has always repeated itself, floods are no exception. The NSW State Government, Department of Fisheries, must be called to account.
- d. In the Northern part of NSW water is not metered. When rivers reach a given height irrigators can start their pumps. Why don't they have an allocation like irrigators in the Southern parts of the state?
- e. Crops grown under flood irrigation, rice and cotton, should be resettled in Northern Australia where 70% to 80% of water runs out to sea. This would be a far better result for Australia than the Basin Plan of buying back water and closing down most irrigation settlements and towns
- f. Town water should not be rationed and these Communities be held to ransom by irrigators.
- g. In Australia water must be returned to the land. Water should not be allowed to be sold except with land.

### 2. Victoria

- a. The Mitchell River must be dammed to take pressure off the Murray
- b. Another dam above Dartmouth
- c. Goulburn River pipeline should be reengineered so water can be pumped from the Thompson Dam into the Goulburn River.
- d. The desalination plan is a must and should be encouraged.

### 3. South Australia

- a. Must have a major dam on the Murray. Underground salt water can be harvested and pumped out to sea.
- b. South Australia uses more water on Adelaide (from the Murray) in proportion, than NSW and Victoria combined. They rely on NSW and Victorian dams but refuse to help themselves.
- c. The lower lakes are a luxury the Murray Darling could well do without.



Why do all the other states have to cater for this South Australia waste? In times of flood it should be stored, not let out to sea.

I believe that the dam around Dartmouth, Mitchell River Dam and the South Australian dam could be constructed for fewer than ten billion.

With Australia's growing population the present basin plan can only be looked after with an injection of more water.

Restrictions on the use of water are a short term solution to a long term problem

Water must be sourced, from the north of Australia where there is a great amount, or from the close handy solutions.

Yours faithfully,

W.J. Wheeldon  
Justice of the Peace  
Councillor of the Wentworth Shire Council

