

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE
IMPACT OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN IN
REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

We make the following comments in the National interest.

1. You do not improve the quality of water by restricting the inflow of water into that river or using that inflow somewhere else in the system. Water usage restrictions, a short term and in the long term is a self-defeating NATIONAL DISASTER.
2. The only long term solutions to improved water quality in the Murray Darling river systems is to put more water into it.
3. One way to improve water quality would be to have a South Australian dam. The South Australians have bludged on NSW and Victorian dams and storages while doing precious little to help themselves. To say this will increase salinity is true but underground salt is removed elsewhere and a salt water pipeline to the sea would only cost a small amount compared to desalination. Why must NSW and Victoria do without water because SA is responsible for the massive waste at the Lower Lakes.
4. If rice and cotton growing in the Murray Darling Basin was moved to north west Western Australia where 70 to 80 percent of water goes out to sea, the projected water savings could be achieved without a water buy-back.

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Secretary:	SC



We live in the town of Wentworth. Water restrictions have ruined our gardens in this proud town, reducing house values and the value of local irrigation properties in the region. The total water use in our town of Wentworth is about the same as two irrigation properties. A pensioner's garden is often their only joy and asset and essential to their health and well-being.

The good people in our community see any amount of water going past and running out to sea. This would not be tolerated in other nations.

THE IMPACT OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN will devastate our river communities and regional Australia:

- a. Government-owned regional water delivery infrastructure has been ignored in the push for water savings.
- b. Regional towns have been destroyed or are being destroyed by water cut-backs.
- c. Regional resident incomes have suffered due to water being diverted for stupid and potentially damaging environment flooding of areas that normally only get water during floods.
- d. The cuts proposed by the Basin Plan would be in the range of 26 to 37 percent.
- e. The concept of "willing sellers" is BULLSHIT with bank managers able to make people sell their water separately from their land. This is what's happening in this region. Land without water is close to worthless.
- f. The state planning departments in Victoria and NSW make sure this land cannot be used for anything else but agriculture, so buying the water is, in effect, killing off large areas of MURRAY DARLING BASIN communities.



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5. WATER QUALITY improvements can best be described by using a bucket of water as an example. The water quality in that bucket can be improved by:
- a. Letting the dirt settle as occurs in dams on the river.
 - b. Putting cleaner water into the bucket by putting more water into the river but NOT by flooding for weird environmental reasons that normally do not occur unless the river is in flood. This unnatural flooding is increasing the rubbish in the river.

MY qualification for making these comments is:

- I have lived on the Great Anabranh of the Darling River for 23 years.
- I have lived on the Darling River at Wentworth for 33 years.
- I am, and have been in business in Wentworth for more than 30 years.
- I am and have been a Wentworth Shire Councillor for 30 years.

Bill Wheeldon,

Chairman of the Wentworth/Curlwaa Branch of the NSW National Party.

29/11/2010.

