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As one who has seen first hand the human tragedy of a town and district deprived of its main Industry, I make the following comments:

- 1. Industry closed, staff paid off.
- 2. Government makes lots of sympathetic noises.
- 3. Government sends lots of "bright sparks" sprouting new Industries, Tourism and the like.
- 4. Those individuals with some drive and initiative leave for greener pastures.
- 5. Does the Government seriously believe that the locals who are now without an Industry, are so slow that they would not have long ago grasped another Industry/crops, had there been one that was more profitable than the one confiscated by the government.
- 6. House prices slide
- 7. Businesses close
- 8. Unfortunates, sad cases, dysfunctional families move into cheap housing.
- 9. Government sends lots of Support Staff to School, in an endeavour to inspire children who have no worthwhile role model at home.
- 10. Main source of Income for the area becomes Centrelink.

Anyone who doubts the above or that taking water from Queensland Irrigators, to fuel: evaporation, feral pigs and black snakes should have a look at some of the towns who have lost their Industries. Given the massive evaporation losses, some 1.50 to 2.00 metres, per Annum from Mungindi to Murray River mouth, does the Government want to inflict the above pain on Border Rivers

R.W. HAMILTON

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

16 MAR 2011

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