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| Secretary: .....     | SC      |

28-11-2010

Mr Tony Windsor MP.,  
Chairman,  
Parliamentary Inquiry,  
Murray Darling Basin Plan.

RECEIVED

06 DEC 2010

Dear Tony,

Following my letter of concern to you regarding the "Proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan", and your request for a submission on this matter, I have now enclosed my "S.A.F.E" report as handed to the Federal Government in 1996 by our then voluntary committee asking that the "Clarence Valley" be fully considered for water diversion to the west and an enhancement for the north coast in water and also generating electricity for such a huge growth area!

Two very capable engineers have put together their ideals of what could take place in relation to the Clarence Valley. Both Bob White and David Coffey, are well known Engineers and have listed their thoughts on the matter.

In asking the question, why do we need to look at Coastal Diversions? You will note on the third page of this report in reference to New South Wales, that of the approximate 30% of our rainfall that falls over the inland rivers, 70% of this resource is utilised as against 70% of the rainfall falling to the coastal rivers, of which only 20% is currently utilised!, and clearly shows where the most water can be harnessed.

Further still approximately 20% of our states rainfall resource falls within the Clarence Valley.

Given these circumstances, time is a factor and I believe if the E.I.S. proved OK, it should go ahead, however it could take 10 to 15 years before completion and the much needed resources are available and will be desperately needed!

In the mean time I would like to suggest that the Menindee Lakes be upgraded back to the 2.2 Million Megalitres, it has held before and this could be done on the Northern side of the main lake, called the 'Sunset Strip' where houses were built, and because of soil erosion due to wind conditions in more recent years, the amount of water fill has gone down to approximately 1.8 Million Megalitres.

Therefore, if the erosion could be managed to help overcome the wash of sandy soils, approximately another 400,000 megalitres of storage would be a quick and less expensive method to help the environment and agricultural production.

There is also another site that could be looked at, where a dam may be built in the upper reaches of the Murray River well above Hume Dam, which is estimated to have a capacity of one million megalitres and previously owned, I am told by approximately four cattle stations in what was called the "Murray Gate" area.

As requested these are the areas I believe could and should help the Murray Darling Basin.

Also, I would be prepared to meet with yourself and your Committee to help discuss these areas of such importance and feel I can provide an input, having been an irrigator for some 60 years in the Riverina at Deniliquin, and also representing a large area of the Murray Darling for 14 years.

*Yours, Sincerely & Best Wishes,*

*Jim Small AM.*