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Submission No:	225'
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Secretary:	Sc

The Hon Tony Windsor MP

Re: Murray Darling Basin Authority Proposed Plan

Dear Mr Windsor,

In response to the request for submissions to the above plan I would like to submit the following in point form.

- 1) Many rural towns sole existence is dependent on irrigated crops. There are higher dollar returns to the town of origin from irrigated agriculture than any other export product
- 2) The multiplier impact is higher with irrigated crops particularly where there is further value adding or processing involved, so a raw material value of \$1000 can have a value of \$5000 to the town of origin
- 3) We have not seen the final impact of the full implementation of the NSW state govts water reform policies yet
- 4) Our Zone 1 in the Upper Namoi lost 95% of our water allocation to the NSW State Government reforms, now the Federal govt want 22% of the 5% we are left with!
- 5) After allowing for local town water requirements, 22% of our sustainable yield is greater than the total allocation to all irrigators. How can we give more than we have?
- 6) This situation reflects the lack of understanding by the MDBA of the impact of their policies on individual people, businesses and basins
- 7) ***Our basin and creek is disconnected from the Murray-Darling basin. Our creek simply finishes in the middle of a paddock and does not connect with any other river or stream to deliver water to the system.***
- 8) We do not irrigate from any creeks or above ground water sources
- 9) ***So in our basin we do not have any water left to contribute and we could not deliver it even if we did have some.***

There are so many ways of improving the management of our water resources in the MD basin, as well as securing new environmental outcomes. It is beyond comprehension that we as one generation simply plan the decimation of critical food and fiber industries, at a time when we should be showing some vision and leadership with plans

to secure our nations quality food source for future generations, of possibly 30 to 40 million people.

We have too many people in our society today living in denial with thinking linked to the 18th century. This results in advice telling us what we cannot do. Our challenge is to be proactive and move our thinking and planning to the 22nd century. It is imperative that we start to look at the big picture with interrelated issues being part of the outcome.

The level of knowledge and understanding of environmental issues in rural Australia is vastly underestimated. At this critical stage in our nation's environmental development we should harness this knowledge, link it with our food production skills and produce an outcome that secures both our environmental needs, as well as being able to supply our own food requirements for the long term.

The CEO of the MDBA, Rob Freeman, made it clear during the Narrabri meeting that the current problems were caused by successive Govts over allocation of water licences.

Why then does this plan target the innocent victims of Governments' mistakes, with a scheme to decimate critical industries, scale back vibrant rural towns and transfer rural skills to the cities?

Mr Windsor, I ask you to impress on your committee the importance of disregarding the narrow scope and single issue base of the 2007 legislation and take this opportunity to enforce some lateral thinking so that all the issues can be addressed with fully integrated solutions. In this modern age we have the technology, the answers are there, they simply have to be identified and implemented to secure ***positive outcomes for the environment as well the rural communities.***

The current weather pattern has provided us with time, and a great opportunity to stand back and look at the big picture – do not let it go.

Yours Faithfully

David Wallis
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