



The Secretary,
House Standing Committee on Regional Australia
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir

17 December 2010

**SUBMISSION- GUIDE TO THE PROPOSED MURRAY DARLING BASIN
PLAN**

I thank you for the opportunity to briefly write some comments on the guide. But first can I say that I moved to the Deniliquin region from Melbourne with my wife and three children some twenty-two years ago. I have successfully operated three businesses during that time using my own capital. The reason I chose this region was because of its strength of agriculture and its ability to create wealth and a great lifestyle for all. During that period I have been actively involved in a lot of community activities including fifteen years on the Conargo Shire Council and five terms as Mayor including the current term.

We have just come out of the worst drought in history and if the Guidelines are adopted as they are then the drought will continue and my community will never be the same. It will contract and its fabric will be shredded.

I fully support the submissions made by RAMROC and my own shire. I would like to make these personal comments

The social and economic profile presented in the plan is a joke and I am pleased to see that a proper triple bottom line review is being done

The plan must have a balanced approach and balanced outcomes.

My community must be protected from unnecessary impact as a result of the Plan

Why doesn't the plan look closely at how environmental water is being used now?. 58% of all inflows to the Basin is used for the environment. Is it being used to the best capacity? Where is the Environmental Water Plan?

I believe the science is flawed especially in how the river is operated. The rules for the Lower reaches of the system must be fully explored.

There is no recognition to our farmers about the huge amount of on farm works that have been done and the great environmental works implemented on their properties. They are the true environmentalists not the zealot greenies in the cities.

There is great consternation about what the Water Act 2007 can or can't do. This must be sorted out before we go too far down this process or all efforts will be wasted.

Transparency in this whole process is imperative

All I ask for is that my community has a strong future. We can put up with droughts, bushfires, locusts, poor commodity prices and a whole variety of influences but we must have an adequate amount of water to go about our businesses

Yours Truly

Norm Brennan