



House of Representatives Standing Committee
on

17/12/2010

Regional Australia
P.O.BOX 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

since I only heard of the possibility to make a submission today, this will be very brief and general. I have to limit my comments to outline what I see is the basic guideline on which every action of the plan

has to be measured.

Regional Australia in the Murray Darling Basin largely depends on food and fiber production, the basis of which is clean water and healthy soils. It therefore seems clear to me, that a healthy vibrant and

biodiverse river system is the necessary foundation for a healthy and vibrant community. If we fail to restore the basin to a healthy ecosystem we fail to provide the fundamental resource for a resilient and

sustainable food production.

The impact of the basin plan has to be measured in the long term, not short term gains whilst "La Nina" lasts. At the same time you should consider the long term consequences of failing to restore the

health of the river systems, which in my opinion would be a substantial loss of available water, reduction of food and fiber production loss of tourism and overall productivity.

Since you have to consider the overall health of the basin, part of your consideration should be a general improvement of land/resource management practices of the area with the aim of a more sustainable

management.

As a farmer ,from a family which has been farming for many generations, myself, I cannot see the supposed antagonism between environmental health and economical well being. Environmental health is as

much a precondition for social and economical wellbeing as a healthy body is absolutely necessary for us to feel well and make a good living.

I remain your sincerely

Sandor von Kontz