

The House of Representatives
Murray Darling Basin Plan Enquiry
P.O. Box 6021 Parliament House, Canberra A.C.T.

Submission No: 335
13 December 2010
Date Received: 16/12/10
Secretary: Sc

Yes! Keep the Murray Darling Basin water flowing.
But also let us get the balance right! 100 YEARS OF BLOOD SWEAT AND GUTS
CANNOT BE ALL IN VAIN!

This beautiful Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (M.I.A.) is a LIVING MONUMENT to all of the Soldier Settlers, Pioneers and Immigrants who gave all during their life in a way that you cannot imagine or believe.

I am seventy six years old and I clearly remember the people working in the fields and farms, Women alongside their men behind a plough driving the horses and later tractors and trucks while their babies slept under a tree.

I get tears in my eyes just thinking about the enormous suffering endured in building this M.I.A.

My parents were Immigrant Pioneers before 1920. My husband all alone, a post war migrant at the tender age of 18 yrs, worked on the land in a way that to-day would be considered inhuman, as did most of the Settlers, Pioneers and Immigrants. Through this hard work we are self funded retirees who have never asked for anything from the Government. We have spent all our life here and invested in this area, therefore our future is at stake.

If too much water is taken from this area, this beautiful town and district would be unsustainable, unable to survive and therefore would degenerate.
THE DECISIONS TO BE MADE ARE VITAL AND CRITICAL!

This is not only about statistics. It is about considering the facts of the people and what took place over 100 years of building and self giving of all that they had to give and beyond the capacities of their worn out bodies in unbearable conditions in this then dust bowl. This does not apply only to farmers but to all the people who supported the farmers as Labourers Businessmen and Professionals
We must honour the struggles and what they endured. All of these facts must be weighed and considered.

To the decision and law makers we emphasize that the enormous responsibility is on you to do the right thing by all Australians because the outcome and lasting detrimental effects will be a very big price for all Australians to pay and will affect everyone. In the end we all need each other.
Please search your conscience very deeply and do not be too hasty in deciding the Vulnerable Future of this VITAL FOOD BOWL OF AUSTRALIA.

Regrets later will be too late as the damage will have been done.

Sincerely, Gerry and Giulia Vio