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Dear Mr Windsor,

I would like to start by congratulating you on being appointed the head of the parliamentary inquiry into the Murray Darling Basin Authority's guide to the draft. I am dismayed at the reaction to the guide as it seems to have been forgotten that it is simply a statement of what is needed to avoid a complete ecosystem collapse in the region. If this happens, it is becoming clearer that there will be no farming or rural communities anywhere in the basin. It is therefore in the best interests of everyone to implement the cuts in earnest, where the debate should lie is how this is achieved.

It is obvious that the first port of call should be improving water efficiency in MDB agriculture. Such things like shading irrigation channels to prevent evaporation, using drip irrigation instead of sprinklers that lose 60% of water to the atmosphere and moving away from overly thirsty crops (cotton and rice) that are not suited to the climate would achieve much of the cuts underlined in the plan with little economic cost. In fact, the relatively simple infrastructure required in building channel shades would create a number of rural jobs. Replacing cotton with THC-free hemp (ie, it cannot be smoked as a recreational drug) and providing incentives for cattle farmers to switch to kangaroos (this would have to be directed at the consumer and would be a more long-term goal in changing people's mindsets) would create significant cuts in water use while rice farming simply doesn't belong in the bush.

I would suggest that you employ an irrigation expert from Israel, which has possibly the most enviable water efficiency in the world, to advise you on achieving these cuts in water use. I also think it would be wise to use to your advantage politicians who are experienced in environmental law and the qualities of our ecosystems, may I suggest my fellow Queenslander Larissa Waters?

I wish you the best in your inquiry, this is undoubtedly the most important reform in this country's history and you are one of the few in Parliament who up to the challenge.

Kindest regards,
Matt Brown