



Submission No:509.....
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 Secretary:Sc.....

CAROMAR PTY. LTD.

SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY INTO MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN

1/ LOWER LAKES

We believe the Goolwa barrages should be opened to allow Lakes Albert and Alexandrina to become seawater estuaries as they were before European settlement. In place of the barrages a dam should be built at Wellington to exclude seawater from the river and allow a piped supply of fresh water to users along the Lake frontages.

This action would save the evaporation from the Lakes of some 1 million megalitres of fresh water per year and reduce the environmental flow required in the Murray river by that amount or more.

2/ THE COORONG

Before European settlement the Coorong was watered by underground drainage from South-East South Australia. In the late 19th Century drainage works diverted this flow of fresh water directly out to sea. Modern technology would allow this fresh water to be returned to the south-east end of the Coorong by pumping and piping, far more effectively and economically than the proposed method of watering the Coorong by high-level flows from Lake Alexandrina.

This action would also reduce the argument in favour of keeping the lower lakes supplied with fresh water.

3/ WETLAND WATERING

Wetlands along the rivers of the Basin could be supplied with water at much lower river levels by pumping if flood conditions do not occur often enough to maintain satisfactory environmental standards. While some cost would be involved, as in item 2 above, the volumes of water saved would more than compensate.

4/ WATER ACT 2007

It is vital that the Act be amended to a sufficient extent to remove the ambiguity and conflict in its present wording between the environment and economic and social considerations so that all receive equal weighting. Otherwise there may well be years of disputes as to the correct legal interpretation of the Act.

The lives of irrigation farmers and the river communities depend on these problems being quickly and correctly solved.

John Edwards

for Caromar Pty. Ltd.