

To: The Members of the Murray Darling Inquiry Committee

Submission Number: 540
Date Received: 17/01/2011

Sc

Dear Mr Windsor,

As a Griffith resident, who has lived and worked here for about 30 years, I want to express my deep concern with respect to the future and wellbeing of the City of Griffith, its residents and also all the other cities, towns, townships and settlements that are part of the Murray Darling System.

In January 1983 I arrived in Griffith NSW with my wife and two little boys from the Netherlands, hoping to build a new future in Australia. Now, looking back I am allowed to say: "It has been successful". My wife and I found both work in education and taught at Catholic High School, (now Marian Catholic College), for respectively 23 and 24 years. Our sons live and work in Wollongong and Wagga-Wagga and our daughter, born in Griffith in 1983, is happily married, gave us a grandson and lives and works with her husband in this vibrant, prosperous, friendly city, called Griffith.

Now, suddenly, the existence of this city is under threat...caused by a "Murray Darling Basin Plan" that has hardly any scientific value because it is mainly based on assumptions, models ("What if...") and not on FACTS. It is also obvious that many data have been flawed to please certain politicians, political parties and environmental groups. Australian citizens are still given incomplete, misleading, incorrect and mainly scaring information about "Climate Change", "Global Warming", "Greenhouse Gases", what they actually are and their cause and effect. For example.... amazing to see that in TV and newspaper advertisements Carbon Dioxide was insinuated to be "black" and "extremely poisonous". That water vapour is a Greenhouse gas is very conveniently not mentioned. Having a Master's Degree in Chemistry and being a qualified Science teacher myself, I am allowed to say: "I know better".

I am angry and very disappointed about this draft Murray Darling Basin Plan. With the expected support of parliamentarians, ministers, political parties, many ignoring the real social, economical, environmental and scientific facts, it will destroy one of the wealthiest agricultural areas of Australia. This will have an enormous negative impact on the Australian economy....more import of food products from overseas, more unemployment west of the Great Divide, more mental health problems and suicides, more migration of people to the coast and already bursting large cities "Cutting water is not the solution!"

That droughts and floods happen in natural cycles in Australia appears to be forgotten. Hardly anyone seems to realise that without storage dams, the inland areas would usually experience many years of being transformed into dry riverbeds and "dry" lands instead of "wet lands", with no breeding grounds for waterbirds and no water available for other animals, no farmland...etc, just barren, desolate land. Most of the

inland-populated areas wouldn't exist, due to continuous shortage of water. Do governments want to force us to go back to these horrific, primitive times?

When John Oxley's expedition reached Mount Brogden (current Cocoparra National Park) on 3 June 1817 he described the area as "burnt-up with a long-continued drought....a country which for bareness and desolation.....has no equal". What would his comment be if he could revisit the same area now.....or after this area has been destroyed by the MDB plan, our governments and political parties?

The MIA wouldn't have been one of the food bowls of Australia without Burrinjuck dam and irrigation. Sheer courage, determination, hard work of the early residents and settlers, (who included a very large number of WW1 Returned Soldiers), with the ingenuity, and environmental awareness of their descendents transformed this part of Australia into an area of wealth, prosperity and multiculturalisma true "oasis in the desert".

Our farmers know how to manage the available water. Didn't they proof this again and again and most recently over the last ten years? With Burrinjuck dam nearly empty and not much rain around, this area survived and still produced enough food for the Australian markets and overseas export.... thanks to the irrigation skills of our farmers.

Now the region is threatened to receive even less water as a "thank you" from government bodies.

Instead of having water cut further, as proposed in the MDB Plan the Governments should build another "Burrinjuck Dam", making it possible to supply more water to the environment, without destroying peoples' lives...By the way, if this dam had already existed now, it probably would have been filled up with water during the recent rain events. As a result of a second dam the same amounts of food or more could be produced, meaning less import from overseas and more jobs for people here.....all for the benefit of our country.

What about the idea of allowing water to flow down from the northern parts of Australia, where most of the huge volumes of stored water, e.g. Lake Argyle, just run into the ocean every year? "Too expensive is no excuse"!If the Australian Labor Government is wasting A\$10 billion on water buy backs and another 43 billion or more on a very doubtful NBN...and if we look at all the money wasted by our current NSW Labor Government...then putting in a system of pipes interconnecting the river systems, so that the water from the north is able to reach the southern areas if needed , should be possible. It would be a very good national investment and be a guarantee for:

- * more jobs
- * more water for towns, farmers, industries, environment
- * security of crops, food for the nation and export

Why destroying the hard work of the Pioneers and their descendants? Solving a problem can very often not be done on the spur of the moment. Most of the time it needs "looking ahead and proper planning"...five, ten, maybe more years, something that currently unfortunately seems to be lacking in governments.

One thing is certain....., I am convinced that, if the current MDB plan would be accepted, the parties who supported this plan will have difficult years ahead. We will fight the plan; we don't want our livelihoods to be destroyed by ignorance! We owe this to our forefathers, who laid the foundations of this city. It took nearly 100 years to

transform this area into what it is now.....we don't want this area to be ruined and destroyed.

I submit this paper to the standing committee, chaired by Mr Tony Windsor, hoping that the wisdom of the committee members will allow this city and all other populated areas in the Murray Darling System to survive. Increasing the water supply by building new dams and/or connecting pipes between the river systems, will definitely benefit everyone within and outside the Murray Darling Basin.

Yours sincerely,

Theodorus Bollen
Griffith NSW
18/1/2011