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To the Parliamentary inquiry into social –economic impacts of MDBP

To whom it may concern

My name is John Bisetto. I live and work in the Riverina. We have a small horticultural property of 89 acres, growing grapes and citrus. We purchased our farm back in 2002, two years into the start of the drought. We had it valued before buying the farm. Water was the asset value. I have worked seven days a week, longer than I can remember, to save our farm and make a life for my family. The troubles of farming, we take in our stride. Drought, commodity prices, the weather- but my biggest strain has been state and federal government interference with our water. We have battled to keep going. I won an award locally from a branch of CSIRO called IREC, for water use efficiency, but this means nothing to city people as they seem to have been miss informed and think farmers are environmental vandals. Removing water has a direct correlation to income on a farm. If the government was so sure they wanted water savings why have they not put money into infrastructure upgrades. We have hundreds of kilometres of open channels just in our town that haven't been maintained since the snowy scheme was built. There are thousands of mega litre losses just in the supply channels, some sections built over limestone. Which is the equivalent of a sieve. What use are on farm efficiencies if the majority is lost before it gets here

Mother nature is not a constant and nor is farming, We have to be conservative in our business planning always. My big worry is our farm and asset has been devalued by the actions of the MDBA. Even our water which should be our gold is falling in price. Nobody wants to own what could be taken away by the stroke of a pen by some bureaucrat trying to please the green vote. All the water that has been bought during the drought didn't add one drop to our rivers. Because they were licences that only had water when the dams were full (general security) People in the city don't understand this. They are not told the truth. I invite you any time to hear the truth and meet real people on the land, my door is always open.
But please don't come just for a media photo opportunity.

Yours sincerely

John Bisetto