



Submission No: .....	616
Date Received: .....	28/2/11
Secretary: ....	SC

KE & NM Dunlop

Attention Committee Secretary ,  
Mr Tony Windsor MHR ,  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia ,  
Parliament House ,  
Canberra .

Dear Tony ,

Please give consideration to this letter and accompanying submission on MDBP

I am writing to you as a life time farmer in the MDB now semi retired with interests still in the NW of NSW having grave concerns for the consequences within this massive food bowl area if the proposed MDBP goes through in its present form as illustrated in its aims and objectives focussing primarily on environmental outcomes .If this legislation goes through it will be the most damaging retrograde move since federation reversing more than a century of wise planning and progress in these country towns, cities and rural communities .We should as a nation be exploring ways to increase production of protein through cropping promoting our very diverse industries to meet the obvious looming world shortage not taking measures which will drastically cut back on production . We need representatives who fully understand the Aust rural sector in its entirety and how it works along with the rural sectors critical national importance through export and feeding our people to lead this debate. **You are one !**

In any form of decision making one cannot oppose debate necessarily without having something more worthwhile as an alternative in mind . My alternative scheme as laid out in the accompanying submission which I am asking you to give consideration to is very visionary but very practical . The environmentalists are compromising with a figure of four gigs of water extra needed annually in the MDB rivers as a minimum to keep the rivers healthy .Yes but where will that water come from in a drought ? It is only available when rivers are flowing . There is enormous potential with water in the mentioned rivers and lake which just runs into the sea annually ,potential in this scheme to give more to the rivers which could be used for increased irrigation ,extra for rivers health and towns ,cities as well. .The scheme would necessarily need mechanisms in place to regulate it on a needs basis ,now for instance in wet times be able to shut down its delivery until flows in rivers slipped below desirable levels. The amount of water as mentioned is an infinitesimal amount as compared to the quantity which just flows into the sea from these sources .

The debate focus on this matter should be based upon outcomes which are best for Australia ,**politics aside** . you as an independent have a great window of opportunity to achieve a very satisfactory outcome on this critical matter I have faith in you as a practical forward thinking person and congratulate you with your progress since I worked closely aligned to you within the framework of the NSW farmer organisation pre NSW Farmers era in the Tamworth area. Incidentally I am distributing this plan to many MHR,'s of all persuasions for consideration

Kind Regards ,

Keith Dunlop



Mr Tony Windsor MHR,  
Parliament House ,  
Canberra .  
Dear Tony ,

The Murray Darling Basin Plan should be scrapped along with the MDB authority which was formulated to prepare the plan .This is in response to the 2007 Commonwealth Water Act which requires the final plan as an legislature instrument to be necessarily ready for passing during 2011.To date we have only viewed stage 1 of a guide to the plan which has lacked totally in transparency, urgency within available time frames and worthwhile consultation with main stake holders .Its stated objectives focus on the long term outcomes essential for environmental and ecological sustainability of the MDB .They have established what they consider to be adequate water flows essential for this end and whats left over is distributed to all remaining needs. Drastically this equates to reductions in previously legally allocated irrigation water licence entitlements by 27% to 37% depending upon which basin they are in which will destroy their viability There hasn't been any worthwhile cost price analysis done to illustrate the grave flow on effect which these cutbacks in irrigation water entitlements will create socially and economically . The Govt has already bought back water licences at a cost of \$4.5 billion to give water back to the environment .They plan to buy back a further \$10 billion to satisfy their projected environment needs . Buying back water licences doesn't put water back into rivers , rain does .We are dealing with the main food bowl of Australia which provides most of our food needs along with massive export income. ABARE quoted the basins production in 2005 to be 39% of Nat output worth a staggering \$38.5 billion . We are dealing with an area encompassing all country NSW & Vic west of the divide,the ACT,along with a sizeable slab of Queensland and SA This equates to close to two million people in the towns, cities along with farmers and graziers.

Independent surveys have been carried out with farmers in these effected areas as to their likely ability to carry with these massive water cuts . One third indicated that they would no longer be viable and would necessarily be forced to leave the land in some cases families ending up to 5 generations continuously on the land .This would create a drastic flow on effect in the towns and cities within the M.D.basin who relies heavily on servicing the rural industry for its very existence .This survey also revealed that up to 11000 jobs would be lost in towns and rural properties due to this devastating action .The exodus which would follow from people moving to the already over populated cities would leave in its wake many ghost towns with others best case scenario of very reduced populations .Reducing water allocations ,naturally cuts back on production with subsequent food shortages ,higher food prices , lower exports and increases in food imports

The MDBP was initiated in response to an extremely controversial debate going on about climate change being the likely cause of an ongoing drought which they claimed would remain unabated which has now been well and truly over with widespread flooding for well into the second year . This has proven beyond doubt that this is yet another chapter in our history of cyclical weather patterns of wet flooding years followed by droughts with intermittent average rainfall years

There are two obvious alternatives as options which would not drastically create social and economic turmoil .One is to carry on with the method of our wise forefathers in building many more dams on rivers systems The other is to capture the water from the massive Queensland Fitzroy or Burdeken rivers or Lake Argyle and pump or channel the water down for distribution to where ever it is needed to satisfy requirements for

environmental , agricultural and towns use. The likely cost of these options would be off set by zero water licence buy backs along with normal production continuing and no massive population resettling chaos . All of south Aust is already watered by this method i.e. pumping and piping from the mighty Murray. The world is fast becoming short of protein and here we are planning to cut back on production ,how smart is that . If we soon don't become smarter at using our water resources wisely one day the Chinese will. By that I refer to their occupation of large masses of country in Africa whereby they saw the potential to grow crops on otherwise unused land in underprivileged areas on a share farming type system

Regards ,  
Keith Dunlop