



River Lakes and Coorong Action Group Inc

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Winner 2009 Jill Hudson Environmental Award

Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation
Committee Hearing on the Carp Herpes Virus

cc Faith Coleman

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee

The River Lakes and Coorong Action Group is an independent community organisation with a 12 year record of advocacy for the health of the Murray Darling Basin, including Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Coorong. This includes some 20 submissions on EPBC matters.

We write to you now to express our concern at the possible release of a carp herpes virus, and to commend the work of ecologist Faith Coleman who appears before you.

The position of the River Lakes and Coorong Action Group on the unsustainable carp population and risks of the proposed management approach is as follows:

- **The River Lakes and Coorong Action Group believes that the carp issue has been brought about by over regulation of riverine flows. We would like to see more work done on changing habitats to preference native fish over carp breeding and controls that will not generate large fish kills, over the use of a knock-down viral control, which is likely to cause widespread anaerobic events. We also believe that the results of research need to be fully released to the public, prior to public consultation on the EPBC Act referral or Draft Plan, to ensure transparency.**

We commend the work of Faith Coleman who is recognised for her contribution to the understanding of the South Australian environment, with a particular focus on coastal and estuarine regions. Faith Coleman regularly provides advice to governments on management plans and policy. We have no doubt that her scientific contribution will be of value to the Committee's deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Rosa Merlino-Hillam, Chairperson
Monday 25 June 2018
By email