

24 November 2010

Murray J Williams

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am a retired farmer with 35 years experience on the land in this district. During that time I have owned and improved a local grazing property from scratch. When I bought the property, there was no power or permanent water supply.

We put in 50 miles of irrigation.

This area was opened up in this way as the politicians of the time realised that we as a country, would need to develop farming land to allow Australians to be able to feed other Australians, well into the future. By taking away the water, we will all need to rely on importing food from countries as well as paying more at the supermarket for all the different types of food that the basin produces.

I wish to advise that I am 100% behind the Murray Group of Concerned Communities. They are made up of people who understand that there needs to be a balance in the use of water between the environment and the production of food.

They also understand that there is a level of water required to allow for this food production, and a small cut to the water available to them, will have a large affect on the food that can be produced.

I think it is a disgrace to the government, to want to cut off water, the life blood of the country people along the Murray Darling Basin. These people have lived in the basin area for many generations. They have built modern homes on very improved farms with modern equipment which has cost millions of dollars.

As regard to the Redgum forests; with average rain fall (not drought) the forests would flood every 5 years. These Redgum forests have developed over time to survive in this type of environment. They are still alive today, and we have been through an extremely long drought.

The end result of the government action will be to lure people to the now over populated cities for jobs and income that has been taken away from them here. Also, the people do not want to go to the cities to live in this way.

Yours faithfully

Murray Williams