

RJ & BJ Ridd



ABN

31-August-2015

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the Murray-Darling basin Plan
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: murraydarling.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee members,

Re: SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY ON MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN & CONSTRAINTS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Thank you to the Senators who have instigated this inquiry to the Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP). The MDBP is having a most corrosive effect on the communities along the rivers of the Murray Darling Basin. The perceived environmental benefit over the economic and social wellbeing of the communities of the basin would be misguided, unjust and inequitable if it is not handled responsibly to ensure the duration of the flood is only a day or two and definitely not for a week.

This submission will confine itself to the impact of the proposed Constraints Management Strategy (Goulburn River Reach Report) and its impact on our Goulburn river property.

Our property is at Cathkin, upstream of Molesworth, where tributary and Eildon floods have the most effect and cover most of our farm. It is most effected by flooding of Home Creek, one of the Goulburn tributaries, which in a normal year (not in a drought) floods most of our farm ... but stays up for a few hours, and is finished in a day or so. River floods of 9.5ML/d 10ML/d are OK, but 15ML/d and 20ML/d cause Home Creek to remain in flood for extended periods. When water covers our grass for more than a week, the grass dies, and we are forced to adjust our stock to hill country at high cost for 6 months until the grass recovers.

In some cases a short overbank flow can be beneficial to pasture growth, but duration of over seven days can cause severe damage to pasture and loss of production while the pasture regenerates for at least six months.

The topography at Molesworth is a choke due to the narrow flats between hills. We are concerned that trying to get 30ML/d at Shepparton will require them to send from Eildon 15ML/d or 20ML/d for more than a week which will cause the devastation.

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We want to care for the environment, and I am the Treasurer of the Upper Landcare Network to improve the environment, but we must also consider the people who have lived and cared for the environment in the course of their business undertaking over several generations.

Attached is a pdf showing how much of our farm will be affected by piggybacking Eildon water onto tributaries, and below shows pictures of water extending across the flood plane from hill to hill, and when the Goulburn Valley Highway is closed between Molesworth and Cathkin.

As you can see this is a very complex issue, and must be carried out with great precision, which is not yet available, and must be included in any MDBA outcome.

Regards, Rodney & Beverley

Rodney Ridd

