
The Secretariat,
Senate Committees
Select Committee on the Murray-Darling Basin

Hello

At today's public hearing, Senator Bob Day asked Ms Anne Hartnett—President, Point Sturt and District Landcare Group—to clarify a reference to salt export loads. Ms Hartnett referred the question to me and I made a response from the floor which was not picked up the recording equipment. Secretariat officer asked me to send the reference to this email address for inclusion in Hansard.

The Point Sturt Landcare Group submission refers to an estimated doubling of salt export loads this century. This is based upon:

The Salinity Audit of the Murray-Darling Basin, a 100-Year Perspective, Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council. ISBN 1 875209 85 9. Page 7

which states,

“Figure 7 summarises the estimated changes in these salt exports for river valleys and States, with the Basin-wide total increasing from 2 million tonnes per year now to 4 million tonnes by 2100. Currently the River Murray exports an average of 2.1 million tonnes a year to the ocean. Clearly, this will rise, with a major contribution from the Mallee zone to the Murray, and significant additional loads from the Namoi, Macquarie, Murrumbidgee and Goulburn-Broken Rivers. Given that these rivers account for more than half the Basin's water resources consumed, such increases in salt loads are of concern.”

Chris Bagley,
Member, SA CLLMM Community Advisory Panel;
Committee member, Point Sturt & District Landcare Group

Thanks in anticipation.

Cheers,
Chris Bagley