

Date 11-03-11

The Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

WATER ACT 2007 REVIEW

The Water Act of 2007 was the first really effective means of saving the Murray/Darling Basin and it would be catastrophic to change an Act which has achieved a balance between all the parties.

The Murray/Darling River system has been severely stressed owing to over allocation and over extraction of water resources for many years. This has caused a build up of salinity which is highly detrimental to flora and fauna and to the farming land surrounding the rivers. Already we have lost 90% of the floodplain wetlands in the basin, 80% of the water bird, 90% of the fish population and 80% of the River Red Gum forests.

The Rivers must be allowed to return ~~to return~~ to environmental and sustainable levels to provide for an eco system which supports flora, fauna and allows the land to remain in a condition suitable for agriculture. This cannot happen unless the flows remain high enough to flush out the high level of salinity caused by the over exploitation of the past .

Unless the Murray/Darling Basin is cared for the land will become arid and useless by the time the next generation of farmers inherit it. The good flows now being experienced must be allowed to flush out the system so that life has a chance to get back to normal. It must be remembered that humans, animals and plant life are all interdependent and if the chain is broken then first the animals and plants will become extinct and then humankind must follow.

Please do not change the Water Act 2007 which was introduced to correct the imbalance between the environment and extraction and thus return water to the environment.

We are mature aged greenies who love this land Australia. We love the geography of water and land, hills and rivers, billabongs and waterfalls. We love the plants, we love the ~~signed~~ animals. We love all of these things and want them to be enjoyed for all generations to come. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE 2007 WATER ACT.

Mrs Helena ROBERTS)
(60 year old)

(Mr RICHARD ROBERTS)
(92 year old)