

If we are understanding this correctly this is a proposal "to amend the Water Act 2007 to: enable the minister to direct the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to prepare an amendment to the Basin Plan 2012 that is the same in effect as an amendment that has previously been disallowed by either House of the Parliament, without having to undertake consultation; and provide for transitional arrangements."

This seems a bit of a compromise of transparent due process?

In the second reading speech the Minister states that "The Murray-Darling Basin Authority may not propose amendments to the previously disallowed instrument if they have not gone through the extensive consultation process under the Water Act."

Does this mean another round of consultation for a rewrite of the previously disallowed amendment for the northern basin?

We objected to the original northern basin amendment because of our concern that environmental waters were not adequately protected and from the extensive media coverage understood that some cotton irrigators were stealing water.

Wouldn't it be easier for government to restore community confidence and introduce effective metering and monitoring of water usage by cotton farmers with this information publicly accessible via a website of some sort?

Please take this as a submission.

Kind regards
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