

SC

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After attending the information meeting at Albury NSW, I wish to make these comments:

The Water Act 2007 constantly referred to in the discussions is a complete betrayal to the people of Australia, especially rural Australia in its destructive aims and lack of nation building for the future. The Act does not take into account the ephemeral nature of the basin's rivers, nor does it take into account the high salt levels in the lower sections of the Murray and Darling rivers when early explorers first crossed the area. The draft plan developed under the Act will lead to destruction of a very significant section of our food growing capability when globally it is agreed that there will be food shortages in the not too distant future and global food production must be increased, not decreased. Putting "fish and frogs" ahead of people is totally unacceptable especially when there are viable engineering and water management alternatives which have not even been considered. The politicians who passed this Act were not acting in the best interests of all Australians so the Act is unconstitutional.

Any scientist knows research projects can be designed to get the desired result and likewise by cherry picking research results. To say the Murray Darling system is dying based on observations made in the middle of a long drought period without balancing observations made in a year like 2010 is not science but politics. The Water Act 2007 is not based on science nor is it in the short or long term interests of the Australian people.

It is my will that the Water Act 2007 be repealed and replaced with an Act that encourages Nation building and food production as its main aims.

The 'plan' has not considered alternative measures to water management such as infrastructure projects to increase the amount of available water in the river system, better managing the water that is currently available, and the needs of people dependant on the water for food now and in the future.

It is my will that the plan makes innovative infrastructure projects and water management for food production the highest priority, with proven environmental needs (not political hype) considered in context.

Under the current plan, water allocation is done on an ad hoc basis with little or no consideration for specific rivers and tributaries, e.g. the Kiewa and Mitta Mitta rivers. Taking even a small amount of

extra water from these rivers will cause hardship and lost food production way out of proportion to any supposed benefits obtained. It is noteworthy that both these rivers are considered environmentally pristine except for trout introduced by fisheries officers (and still being introduced), and further, almost all of their water flow goes into the Murray system. In fact, there is no full agreement on just what a healthy river actually is, so on this basis the plan is flawed to start with.

It is my will that the plan conduct detailed social and environmental studies based on real science not politics, on all parts of the Murray Darling catchment BEFORE any water cuts are further promulgated.

The current 'plan' does not take into consideration the normal boom / bust wet and dry cycles of the Australian climate. This is normal and natural for our river systems and the natural life forms have evolved to cope with this variability. Neither does the plan take into account that the environment is not static and fixed at a point in time, but normally and naturally changes over decades and millennia. Looking at the system in a short term must lead to myopic conclusions. As advisors, the 'Wentworth group' and others stand condemned for this approach and their lack of vision and compassion for fellow human beings. It is noteworthy that none of them stand to lose their heritage, lifestyle, businesses, careers, self esteem, families, mental health etc as a result of their flawed and myopic recommendations. *Treat others as you would like to be treated should apply to them.*

It is my will that a plan for water use in the Murray Darling basin should be based on a full understanding of the Australian climatic variability and river flow, with water allocated on a yearly basis according to needs and availability.

Water must not be a commodity for financial speculation, especially to overseas interests. Water is the life-blood of our nation and must not be controlled by those who do not have our best interests at heart. Water trading should only be available to those who have a genuine need to use it. Water management is a very real national security issue, as is the food production dependant on the water.

It is my will that water trading is only available to those with a genuine need to use the water with a priority on food and fibre production, and genuine environmental needs based on real science not politics.

For decades farmers have invested heavily in improving water use efficiency to the point where Australian irrigation farmers are considered to be up with world best practice. This has been a massive financial burden, often done with very significant personal hardship and with many of the benefits flowing to the environment and not the farm businesses. In other words they have been using their own capital for the public good. In return, the Australian Government is now totally betraying them by removing much of their already reduced water allocation (from the Murray Darling cap demands), to the point that it will destroy their businesses and with it much of the Nations food production capacity. Instead of destroying part of the Nations food production capacity, the Government must be morally and legally bound to support irrigated food production in every way possible for National and International food security, with any of these draconian destructive policies of the MDB 'plan' only considered as an absolute last resort.

It is my will that the government immediately put in place policies and funding to support irrigators by way of public infrastructure for water harvesting, and improving where possible,

irrigation facilities on farms, to maximise the potential use of available water. Further, the government must immediately fund a properly designed study and infrastructure works to save perceived environmental demands for water to take into account massive achievable water savings as detailed from public input at the Albury meeting.

The plan as promulgated only makes sense if the Australian Government has decided to deliberately destroy much of the Murray Darling Basin food production capacity, and if this is the case the Government and Opposition Ministers of the Crown are guilty of conspiracy against the Australian people and would therefore be unfit for office.

It is my will that the government immediately rescind the Water Act 2007 and replace it with an Act and management plan designed to facilitate higher future demands for food production and water availability in the Murray Darling Basin and meet the present and future needs of the Australian people and the global community.

Not only is the 'plan' distressing in the extreme due to its destructiveness, lack of vision and extreme hardship that would be imposed on those directly affected, but the attitude of the Australian Government to even remotely consider such a discriminatory course of action leaves them condemned as unfit for government. I cannot express strongly enough my condemnation, despair, and complete sense of betrayal at the appallingly destructive and myopic 'plan' which shows no vision for the future at all, and in fact will set Australia back decades. It must not be allowed to proceed without complete redesign based on ***real*** science and a ***real*** vision for the future of Australia's contribution to our own and the world's food supply, as well as maintaining ***essential*** river flows.

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