



With respect I offer the following comments, following the release of the recent report and the reactions it has caused in communities like Griffith NSW.

1. **Rice Growing in Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area should be banned.** Those currently holding water rights for this purpose in MIA should be offered similar water rights in the Ord River Scheme, and the farmers given assistance to relocate to that area, if they wish to continue to grow rice.
2. **Cotton Growing in Southern Queensland and Northern NSW should be banned.** Those holding water rights for this purpose in these areas should be offered **sufficient** (I use this word advisedly) water rights in the Ord River Scheme, and the genuine farmers (NOT the big companies and consortiums who are currently exploiting their water rights for this purpose) given assistance to relocate to this area, if they wish to continue to grow cotton.

Both these measures would contribute greatly to the health of the Murray/Darling Basin.

Those farmers, who do not wish to relocate to the Ord River, should be encouraged to diversify in their current locations to grow food crops that require a much reduced water allocation.

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