

Submission Number: 168
Date Received: 14/12/2010

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Dear Tony, Chairman MD Basin Plan Standing Committee,

There are not a large amount of diversions from the Kiewa River, an unregulated stream which produces hydro power and provides huge flows of water annually for the environment.

With long term food production vitally important for our future, it has been clearly proven that the use of water at it's source is by far the most economical use of irrigation water.

The cuts of 40% to 45% is effectively over 70% when only irrigation diversions are able to be reduced.

This is hugely unfair and out of proportion when farmers in the Kiewa Valley are very environmentally conscious. The quality of the water is very good, and our high rainfall valleys are the most economical food producers in the State.

Subdivision of prime farm land and any reduction of irrigation water is a very senseless, short-sighted and uneconomical waste to be landed on our children and future needs of our country.

Irrigation on the Kiewa has been entirely funded by Primary Producers.

We fully support the submission from the Kiewa Branch of the Victorian Farmers' Federation.

Yours faithfully,

Robert and Thelma Reid.