



The Committee Secretariat

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia

P.O Box 6021

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: The Hon. Tony Windsor, MP and committee.

I would like to make the following comments and would be happy to explain in more detail before the inquiry if required. I do not believe the MDBA Plan as released is valid and would like to make the following comments, observations and pose these questions.

1. Your committee needs to investigate the social and economic impacts on the communities that are at the mercy of the plan.
2. Claims there would likely be only approx 800 jobs lost in these rural communities is grossly incorrect and common sense suggests these would be in the thousands.
3. The science studies used to assess the plight of the River Red Gums only goes back 20 years or so. These studies did not take into effect the late 1980s and the 1974 massive floods.

similar to November this year.

4. By declaring River Red Gum National forests we have not saved them by environmentally watering them but could seriously assist in their demise. There has been two such flows one last February which created black water that killed many protected Native fish. Better management is expected.
5. Now that Nature has filled all our reservoirs to capacity again, how is the MDBC Management going to stop the low oxygenated and unseasonably cold water releases affecting the breeding of our Protected Native Murray Cod.
6. Salt is a major concern throughout the basin but the Norske Skog paper mill at Albury is allowed to dump 1500 tons a year into it. How is this so and why should it continue.
7. Greater access be given to anglers and the community now that National Parks have been declared along it and should be included in this inquiry as it is part of the Basin.

Regards

Chris Beale