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of - Murrumbidgee Basin

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## RE MURRY DARLING BASIN

Too many decisions made by today's politicians, are decisions that, they being city people do not understand, or have no idea what is going on in rural Australia.

Before our dams were built our rivers would nearly dry up in years of drought. The cycle of drought years was in 1862, 1865, 1870, 1895, to 1902, the drought was most of NSW, northern Victoria and southern Queensland. The rains came and the drought broke in April 1903.

History will tell the story.

The year 1842 recorded one of the worst droughts, followed by excessive flooding. In 1843 -1844 however drought and flooding were only part of the pioneers trials and tribulations.

In the year of 1896, the Government of the day passed into law, the Water Rights Bill that water conservation provided that all flowing water would be VESTED IN THE CROWN and farmers drew water from rivers for domestic and watering stock, and to irrigate one required a licence to pump water out of the rivers.

We have to thank our past politicians who were men of vision; in years of drought our rivers would nearly run dry, they built the Burrinjuck Dam and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area to produce food for our city cousins. Then they gave us the Commonwealth Bank, the people's bank to keep interest low for the Australian people. The Rural Bank was to help farmers and small business, the Rural Bank had a name change to the State Bank. Telstra was called PMG or Telecom. Together with GIO Insurance, they all got sold off. They were initially paid for by the TAXPAYER and they all made a profit for the Government of the day.

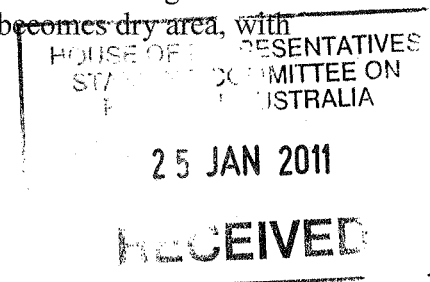
And then the Snowy Mountain Hydro Scheme was built:

Farmers in the MIA were allocated X amount of high security water, to grow grape vines, fruit trees, oranges, cherries, nuts and prunes. Vegetable growers used their allocation to produce food all year round such as carrots, onions, pumpkins, lettuce, potatoes, gherkins, and 66% of Australia's orange juice! Rice growers were given general allocation of water to produce rice; they currently produce 99% of Australian's rice as well as wheat, barley, corn, cattle and sheep. Baiada kill approximately 25 million chickens each year. *Water is the life blood of the MIA.*

In 1984 our Member for Murrumbidgee Adrian Cruickshank decided to advise the Minister for Natural Resources Ian Causley, that the MIA. should be deregulated of land and water. Grape growers and horticulturists were not pleased with the announcement of the changes to land tenure and water rights. The only irrigators happy with deregulation were rice growers.

I have always said that deregulation of our land and water rights was wrong. Now business men can buy our farms and sell the water, that farm becomes dry area, with very little water on it.

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Water should not be a tool to be traded and sold. The water should be vested in the crown. The water in the Burrinjuck Dam was built for the MIA to produce food, and the water should belong to the people of NSW. It was built with taxpayers' money.  
WHO CONTROLS OUR WATER, CONTROLS AUSTRALIA.

Australia is known for fire, drought followed by floods. Our nature is alive and well even after 9 years of drought. Griffith, in October 2010 in one weekend had three and a half inches of rain. The frogs come out and the noise they are making is beautiful, and the trees are full of so many spiders, and the birds are in the rice fields.

Today our Australian politicians are not looking after the Australian people or our farmers. They are selling Australia off to imports and overseas interests. We are importing apples from China, China has a fruit fly that Australia does not have. New Zealand apples have flier blight. That is again something that Australia does not have. Oranges, cherries and grapes are imported from the USA. Australian farm land is been sold off to foreign interests such as the Chinese.

*Who is governing Australia?*