

Henry Schneebeli

Submission No 139 

Submission on Basin Plan

Sir/Madam,

I would like you to have a good look at the enclosed photographs. The ones on the left side we took after we bought our farm to show our parents in Switzerland. That was about the time Copeton Dam was being built and therefore pre irrigation of the Gwydir Valley. The ones on the right I took at the same locations 25 years later after we were told at a meeting of riparians, that the Gwydir was degraded.

The Guide to the Basin Plan says so too. I don't know what eminent scientists think our river should look like, but to me the 1999 pictures show a much healthier environment, with lots more trees and less eroded riverbanks. Now, after nine years of drought, the river still looks as good as in 99, because of the small flows from Copeton Dam to irrigators and wetlands in that time.

I would suggest the same applies to most of the basin, except those wetlands that need over the riverbank flooding, which in a drought would be very wasteful to achieve without pumping the water over the bank. **To say the Murray-Darling is dying, is a gross misrepresentation of the truth.**

Irrigators have for decades looked at saving water. The government should spend their infrastructure funds to use their own bought back water efficiently. Running precious fresh water into the sea is wasteful, no matter what the Guide says.

Regards,

**1970's**



**1999**



