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15 June 2012

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Regional Australia
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Parliament House
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Dear House Standing Committee on Regional Australia

Inquiry into certain matters relating to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin plan

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to engage in the House Standing Committee on Regional Australia inquiry into certain matters relating to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin plan.

The NFF notes that the terms of reference that the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Bourke MP has asked the Committee to inquire into encompass:

1. Progress to date in water recovery towards bridging the gap by 2019 through both irrigation infrastructure investments and water purchase.
2. The potential role that new environmental works and measures projects could play in partially offsetting SDL reductions under the Basin Plan, focussing particularly on prospective project proposals identified by state governments and community interests.
3. The groundwater sustainable diversion limits (SDLs) for Basin in the revised proposed Basin Plan.

The Committee has specifically asked for comment on the second term of reference. This NFF submission to the Proposed Basin Plan, specifically section 3 on pages 8 to 11 should provide the Committee with material relevant to this term of reference.

The NFF welcome any questions regarding this from the Committee.

Yours sincerely

MATT LINNEGAR
Chief Executive Officers