



Hi,

I have just seen the terms of reference for the inquiry into the socio-economic impacts of the proposed 'Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan' and was hoping the committee had thought of the following.

Timeframes for direct and indirect impacts; much of the current emotional debate is about the immediate impacts upon peoples livelihoods, any examination of direct and indirect impacts must look at medium and long term impacts.

Health issues; physical and mental health wellbeing is intrinsically linked to healthy functioning ecological systems; the study should look at the individual and social impacts of degraded unhealthy ecosystems.

It is extremely frustrating living in a region going through irrigation infrastructure upgrades that are being done in an isolated way; the study should look at the debacle going on and the potential benefits to be gained by integrating land and water management issues. Very difficult I know but this point alone has the ability to negate many of the fears and concerns currently being raised.

If the Basin communities are to carry the burden in restoring ecological health to the basin's waterways there needs to be consideration to the following;

The impact of imports of produce from regions of the world that do not have ecological sustainability built onto production systems; our farmers will never be cost competitive with these imports. The nature of the supply line that means our producers are price takers and not price setters. The potential for job creation through a range of on ground works linking increased environmental water with associated riparian, wetland and on farm biodiversity works.

Thank you and good luck with the inquiry.

Regards

John Laing