

I have a stockfeed business which I started in Kyabram, Victoria in 1995. My business has grown on the back of a dairy industry that survives on irrigated pastures. I currently employ 11 full-time employees and 3 casuals.

The last two years have been most difficult due to the financial crisis effect on commodity prices and the flow on effects of farmers struggling to pay their bills. We have made it through these tough times and I have been able to keep all my staff in paid employment.

We now face the uncertainty of another issue on water which will affect the viability of every business in this town and all along our river systems.

From my own business position I know that further losses of irrigation water from this region will end my business. The flow-on effect will be all my employees will be out of work with no other job prospects in this area. The flow-on effect from this will be the death of many other businesses and finally the death of this town.

My business uses many thousands of tonnes of grain and hay, as well as many goods and services from businesses within this town and throughout Victoria. How will my demise effect these farmers and businesses who used to supply my business?

Please consider smarter solutions than those currently proposed by the MDBA to enable a win-win outcome for irrigated agriculture and the environment.

Robert Danieli
Director
D&M STOCKFEEDS