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FROM: Mr Win Hawkins



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TO: engagement@mdba.gov.au

SUBMISSION: GUIDE TO THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN

I write with my concerns in relation to the proposal being put forward for the Murray Darling Basin.

I was born in 1923, and lived at Tocumwal NSW within one mile of the Murray River where my father farmed since 1914 through to February 1942 when that property was resumed for the big Wartime Aerodrome.

After discharge from the R.A.A.F in 1946, I moved to an irrigation farm in Tocumwal, which I owned and farmed until 2002 when my wife and I retired to Finley.

We now have three sons farming irrigation properties, all laser land formed with recycling and Turkey Nest dams.

All water to these properties is supplied by Murray Irrigation Ltd, from a total allocation of 1.1 million mega litres (GLs) subject to availability. This amount of water is equivalent to that lost through evaporation every year from the Coorong and Lower Lakes area in South Australia on an annual basis I.E. 850,000 million mega litres per year average loss. Water supplied from Murray Irrigation Ltd 850,000 million mega litres average.

Contrary to uninformed opinions; claiming devastation of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers by irrigation, the greater damage to water courses was caused by European Carp, introduced into our rivers. The European Carp is totally responsible for the loss of native

plant life from the river floor, and reeds and bamboo like growth along the banks of streams which controlled erosion, filtered the water and kept the rivers transparent.

The constant use of high-powered ski boats during the summer months is causing erosion where banks are steep and also causing erosion to the floor of the river at times of low flow. Recreation and Tourism come at a very high price!

The major damage to the lower Murray River has been caused by man-made structures. Chowilla Dam would have been another such disaster like the Lake Victoria Salt pondage area at Rufus River, west of Wentworth, but fortunately, reason prevailed and Dartmouth Dam was built.

WHAT MUST BE DONE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN.

THE RIVER MURRAY:

A complete accounting of the use of environmental diversions.

How often will these diversions take place?

The damage to the ecology of the too frequent flooding of wetlands.

i.e. Will escalate the breeding of Carp leading to devastation of plant life in swamps and low areas.

Will stress the red gum forests. Saw Millers along the river maintain excess flooding produces gum vein, whereas intermittent floods produce healthy trees.

The Lochs in the lower section of the river must be redesigned to allow flushing of salt with minimum flow down river.

A weir built up river between Mannum and Wellington. A site found for a holding dam to supply Adelaide for a reasonable period. Water to be pumped if necessary.

Lastly, the Coorong and Lower Lakes area of South Australia must be opened up and returned to some form of natural flow from the Southern Ocean to comply with the Ramsay Convention and avoid the enormous losses from evaporation.

Yours sincerely,

E.W Hawkins.

c.c. Hon Tony Burke MP

Hon Simon Crean MP

Mr Tony Windsor MP

Hon Greg Hunt MP

Senator Barnaby Joyce