



10 December 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100 – Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Draft Murray Darling Basin Authority Plan

I am writing to urge you to oppose the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Draft Plan for the Murray Darling Basin (MDB).

I moved to Moree from Inverell six years ago for work. I work for an agricultural business that is heavily reliant on the irrigation industry for its survival.

I planned to raise my children in Moree; however I will be forced to leave if the proposed water cuts go ahead as there will be limited educational opportunities, health services and job prospects for my family and me.

The return of rural dwellers to find alternative employment in metropolitan areas will result in increased housing pressure. Metropolitan areas will also be affected by increases in food prices if the proposed water cuts go ahead due to a decrease in food production.

I recommend that the government re-evaluate the consultation process and make a concerted effort to ensure that the environmental outcomes are balanced with the socio-economic outcomes for the MDB.

Please help us to protect our livelihood and to ensure the survival of our community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Emma O'Brien