

House of Representatives Standing Committee,

5-12-2010

The Committee Secretary,

House of Representatives

PO Box 6021

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Submission No:	218
Date Received:	13/12/10
Secretary:	SL

Dear Miss,

Re Murray Darling Basin Plan.

I wish to bring attention to my fears for the survival of country Australia. Over the last few years I have seen the population of Semildeni fall dramatically as the result of water being regarded as a separate entity to the land. I shudder to think what will happen to our community when water is taken away so that none of our farms will remain viable.

I have been an environmentalist all my life and have been outspoken in my passion for keeping habitat. On my farm I have fenced off all waterways, reserved vegetation etc. Most of my neighbours have done likewise. What is our reward for this? It is not possible to run a business ie irrigation farms with insufficient water to make it a viable proposition.

I hope that the present flood that is moving down through the basin will be counted as environmental water. There is certainly a flush of the system happening and any plan must take this into consideration.

We need a fair go. We need balance between the needs of economy, environment and communities.

I, for one, do not wish to eat food that originates in countries that do not have the same food standards as we do.

There must be a stop to water being taken from the basin so that water can be sent to the cities. Desalination is expensive but this must be the price paid to water our cities on the coast.

Reduced water allocations will mean that our farms are no longer viable. This will be the beginning of the end for the towns and businesses relying on the rural produce.

Yours faithfully,