



To: Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

SUBJECT: Submission on Draft Plan Proposals

Background

I attended the MDBA presentation Canberra on 11 November 2010 and have perused the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan and its three supporting volumes.

I have also considered what is required for the good of:

- The Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers.
- The industries (primary, secondary and tertiary) that rely on the water from those rivers.
- The communities that have been established along and near to the rivers.
- The future food needs of Australia with a population of 36 million people.

Issues

The issues fall into four categories:

- The environmental requirements of the river system – MBDA's proposals to let more water be used for this has not gone far enough for the eco-scientists.
- The primary industry requirements from the river system – MDBA's proposals to reduce the amount of water available to the irrigators in the food-bowl of Australia has met with great criticism from those affected.
- The future production needs to sustain an increasing Australian population – MDBA has not considered this issue.
- The future needs of Canberra to sustain a population of 500,000 people – MDBA has not considered this issue

Solution

The solution to the four issues is:

- Allow the natural inflow from rainfall and snowmelt to be used primarily for the communities that are adjacent to the rivers and for environmental flows to keep the rivers and their environs healthy, naturally productive of fish and available for aquatic activity.
- Provide desalinated water from the South Coast of NSW to be piped to the eastern side of the Snowy Mountains and along the Murrumbidgee corridor to Canberra via the towns of Cooma and Queanbeyan as well as the villages in between.
- Provide desalinated water from the same source to be piped across the mountains to follow the Murray river corridor and the Murrumbidgee river corridor for the use of irrigators for

present production and for expanded production. This additional, unlimited and non-rainfall dependent source of water will provide not only for all the food-bowl's needs now and into the future but will also provide a source of water for communities on and off the rivers in times of drought.

Delivery

Delivery of the solution requires:

- Development of a state of the art desalination plant on the South Coast of NSW.
- Provision of electricity to power the desalination plant. The electricity source could be: an off-shore wind farm; a nuclear generator, a solar panel array, a gas-fired turbine using east Gippsland natural gas or a tidal generator.
- Diversion of the money presently being spent on water entitlement buy-backs to the establishment of the desalination plant, the power source and the pipelines to deliver the water to the farms and communities that require it.
- Development of a pricing regime for the desalinated water - the price charged will determine what the water is used for and how it is used

Recommendations

That the MDBA review the Water Act and approach its Minister to amend the Act to allow MDBA to do all that it is necessary to implement the solutions for the betterment of Australia both now and in the future.

That the MDBA take all necessary actions to deliver the solutions.

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