



SUBMISSION TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING
COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA
PO BOX 602
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

We are a family dairy farming business at Blighty in the southern Riverina commencing in 1989. We bought a property with an Irrigation Licence as it would be impossible to feed milking cows without water. We have worked extremely hard and with advice from The Department of Agriculture and a full farm plan have improved the efficient use of water by landforming, purchasing outlets for fast watering and recycled drainage. We planted many trees and have always worked to improve the environment. All this at our own expense.

If the Murray Darling Plan is implemented in its present form it will have devastating effects on the whole community as we all depend on each other. We have already had to cope with Dairy Deregulation in 2000 and drought which continued for almost the whole decade. Because of low prices for commodities especially during the Economic Global Financial Crisis, farmers have had to borrow heavily and live on the smell of an oily rag to survive these disasters.

Over the past few months when the rains came and the crops began to look promising, the whole community started to look forward with hope in their hearts that this was the turning point we have all been waiting for and along comes the MDBP.

Many farmers will be forced off their land and the associated businesses, (those which have not already shut their doors), will be pushed to the limit. Our young people will have to look for their livelihoods in already overcrowded and over priced cities. It will be uneconomical for sons and daughters to take over the family farms.

Please think about some positive solutions to this situation and come up with some forward thinking ideas similar to when the Snowy Mountains Scheme was built to open up this area to grow food for the Australian Nation that we were all so proud of. Serious consideration should be given to the building of The Clarence River Scheme proposed by Professor Lance Endersbee. This would supplement the flow in the Murray Darling system and alleviate any salinity and blue green algae problems as well.

In summing up it seems to us that Government and Scientists alike have no vision as to A VIABLE FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIA all we hear are NEGATIVE REASONS WHY SOMETHING CAN'T BE ACHIEVED. The area in question is very large and contains valuable land where most of Australia's food is grown. Already a great deal of our Horticulture from the Riverina Area has been made unviable by the introduction of cheap exports allowed in by Governments. WHERE WILL OUR CLEAN GREEN WHOLESOME FOOD BE GROWN?

Rosemary, James and Phillip Burn
ARCADIA PARK PTY. LTD.