

Submission to Standing Committee on Regional Australia

From Tony McAlary

The MDBA plan is a political response to the most intense drought in recorded history. The aim of the plan is to set sustainable diversion limits for irrigation or put more simply determine how much water irrigators can have. To explain their findings the MDBA has published enough books to fill an average family suitcase. Sadly it has left everyone more confused and it is full of bad science, very bad. The plan shows that there was less vegetation during the last drought when compared to wet seasons and therefore the basin is in crisis and is not sustainable. *What nonsense.* Researchers who contributed to the plan admit that the timing was inappropriate, the only way to test sustainability is to do an audit after this wet season to test the recovery of the basin species. Areas that show 100% recovery are clearly sustainable under current rules. Areas which do not can be examined for solutions. At the moment we do not know what has recovered and what has not. We must do an audit now to put some real science and credibility into the plan.

REMEMBER RECOVERY EQUALS SUSTAINABILITY.

WE MUST DO AN AUDIT.

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