

Sc

A submission for the Murray Darling Basin Plan,

To whom it may concern,

My first observation is that there isn't much point buying back water entitlement if the reason for selling is shortage of water to commit to the entitlement, Buying back water doesn't create water. In answer to this better management of entitlement alteration in reconversion of water available at the start of prior of irrigation season. No rain, no storage. Fund committed to water buy back would have been better utilised on improving water delivery; e.g. piping, channel lining and reducing channel length from point of source, this could be a form of water buy back, but reallocated closer to the source.

Now that it has rained and the environment has had the flush out that according to the experts was never going to happen again, it should give time, maybe two years to take a step back to formulate a plan with general community concerns, rather than blundering blindly into the current plan, that has clearly been struck not on science but on mathematics to achieve the 3000/4000 gigs. If science was the basis for the reductions on the Kiewa and Ovens river systems, for the little amount of water that would be returned to the Murray River and the difference this would make to environment is a farce. This alone is enough to convince me that the whole plan is biased on numbers alone; to appease a noisy minority who have influenced an ill informed community, having little understanding of how the whole picture fits together.

There should be money for infrastructure; what's wrong with having new dams? If there was a new dam on the ovens, I'm sure there would be many years of environmental water stored. How many environmental flows have gone through this last six months? Surely it would be good sense to save some water for the next time there is an extended dry period to provide the environmental water, also there would be huge scope to improve water delivery.

There are plenty of options to obtain environmental water and buying back water should be the last option not the first. We all know the southern half of our nation is a low rainfall land in general, it is our responsibility to manage and utilise the limited water resource to a maximum. There is little point in big quantities of fresh water running into the ocean. Our major coastal cities need to do more with water regarding the re-use management. One shouldn't have to say more.

Gordon Nicholas,

Gordon Nicholas

Dry land Dairy Farmer, unregulated irrigation licence. Haven't irrigated since January 2003 due to lack of water.

Involved with farmer organisations for many years.

Member of Victorian Farmers Federation: Corryong Branch Victoria

Kiewa/Mitta Mitta/Upper Murray advisory committee to Goulbourn Murray Water

Member of United Dairy Farmers Victoria: Central Counsellor.