

Submission Number: 541
Date Received: 20/01/2011



Submission to the
Inquiry into the Impact of the
Murray-Darling Basin Plan
in Regional Australia



Jeanine McRae



Jan 2011

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17/1/2011

The Secretary of the Committee
House Standing Committee on Regional Australia
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan (Plan), I submit the following, which is primarily what I submitted to the MDBA (Dec 2010), with some changes to reflect your wider terms of reference now included. I had intended to submit a more tailored article, but find that I simply don't have time to do it justice. Therefore, I thank the Committee for accepting this, as these are my grave concerns and evidence for such concerns, with some additional comments which address very briefly the broader terms of your reference.

- 1) There is no need to take into consideration ANY social or economic impact on ANY communities serviced by the Murray Darling System.
- 2) This fact was **known fully** by all parties, including, but not limited to Malcolm Turnbull, the Liberal Party and the Labour Party.
- 3) This fact was also known, and "*legally*" and "*properly*" adhered to by the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) in formulating the proposed Plan.
- 4) The reason that this was unnecessary is due to the fact that the Water Act 2007¹ (the Act), is subject to certain International Conventions, Treaties and Agreements on various environmental issues.

1 Water Act 2007 (and subsequent amendments)

- 5) The Federal Government is able to OVER-RIDE any States concerns, and indeed, any INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS concerns (*including any Social or Economic impact the destruction of productive areas may have*) **because** Australia is party to these International Agreements, entered into via the External Affairs Power² of the Constitution.
- 6) The Federal Government can ride roughshod over its citizens in favour of a “perceived” environmental outcome because it invoked the External Affairs Power³ to bring the Act into being. Using the **Tasmanian Dam High Court judgment**⁴ as a precedent, the Federal Government has used, and has shown it certainly intends to further legislate, to **enforce Ramsar**⁵ or any other International instrument alluded to in the Act over-ride the States, and their citizens who are an intrinsic part of the fabric of regional Australia.
- 7) The International instruments referred to in the Act and it’s instruments are:
 - a. the Ramsar Convention
 - b. the Biodiversity Convention
 - c. the Desertification Convention
 - d. the Bonn Convention
 - e. CAMBA
 - f. JAMBA
 - g. ROKAMBA
 - h. the Climate Change Convention
 - i. any other international convention to which Australia is a party and that is:
 - i. relevant to the use and management of the Basin water resources; and
 - ii. prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph
- 8) Therefore, legally, the MDBA only had to take into account the “*environmental*” considerations.
- 9) Birds and frogs do not vote, nor do they pay taxes, contribute economically, make decisions about food security of humankind, or employ public servants. They do go elsewhere when there is no water for them though, and frogs miraculously re-appear after many many years of drought, even when thought to be extinct in some cases.
- 10) Humankind are commanded by God in Gen 1:28⁶ to care for God’s Creation, and hence have a moral duty to do so. We have moral obligations to God’s creatures, and although some are there to farm (subdue) we are commanded not be cruel.
- 11) We have an obligation to understand that God has DESIGNED His Creation in a vertically and

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2 S 51 (xxix) – Constitution - Commonwealth of Australia

3 S 51 (xxix) – Constitution - Commonwealth of Australia

4 Commonwealth Vs Tasmania – landmark decision by High Court 1/7/1983

5 The Ramsar Convention

6 Gen 1:28 : God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” NIV

horizontally integrated fashion. Many micro-biological creatures require a certain environment in which to live, and depend on each other. Crops and flowers depend on the birds and the bees – for the sound of song to create growth vibrations, and for pollination. Nevertheless, in the insect and animal world, beetles eat mosquitoes, and birds eat beetles. That is the natural order.

- 12) In doing away with the current environment that irrigation provides to our community (*and Ramsar does provide for the protection of Rice paddies*⁷), the MDBA is upsetting duck migration routes as they land and devour much rice seed, while providing a habitat as well; shaking up a whole micro-biological ecosystem developed because of the cropping practices in inland Australia, as well as ignoring the needs of humanity and food security.
- 13) Rice paddies ARE actually able to be protected under Ramsar, according to their own website:
 - a. “Wetlands are also important storehouses of plant genetic material. Rice, for example, which is a common wetland plant, is the staple diet of more than half of humanity”.⁸
 - b. Therefore, why is it that **our rice paddies are less valuable** than those in other parts of the world, and in particular, Third World countries? Is this a direct reflection of the **Lima Declaration**⁹ whereby we defer constantly to third world countries to the detriment of our own people and industries?
 - c. Good clean green food for Australians and the world is being jeopardised because the undefined environment is elevated above human needs in deference to self-styled “greenies” who want to eat, but have no real idea about what goes into producing food by the **most efficient farmers in the world** – Australian farmers. Our farmers can grow food more economically on a large scale than anyone in the world, thus saving many human lives (*as well as providing food for ducks, frogs and micro-biological populations*) that depend on the environment created by rice-growing.
- 14) The Government and MDBA seem completely at home with destroying Willow Trees, which prevent erosion by holding channel banks together, help prevent evaporation, are an important instrument of transpiration, protect micro ecosystems under their shady canopy, and provide shelter for birds and native creatures.
- 15) How is this “permissible”? Why can the Govt/MDBA blatantly ignore the current ecosystems, and make motherhood decisions which claim that another, soon to be established, ecosystem will be better than the one being destroyed? *Who judges this?* By what value is this established? Which International Agreement takes precedence? By what value is *this* established?
- 16) Is the Govt/MDBA so comfortable in it’s glass-house, rolling in tax-payer funds (not payable by birds and frogs), that it can simply ignore the citizens whose hard work, sweat (*and tears caused by the MDBA*) actually pays bureaucrats salaries?
- 17) Why are Governments and the MDBA comfortable in destroying families, small well-run family businesses, farmers and infrastructure because it kow-tows to International Agreements over and

Why are our Rice paddies less valuable than those in other parts of the world?

7 Ramsar: *The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.*

8 Ramsar website

9 The Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, 1975.

above Regional Australians, and ultimately, all Australians? *They don't live here, WE DO !!!!*

- 18) These submissions are asked of the general public, who were only given a couple of months since the long-awaited release of the Plan. The *public* all have OTHER jobs and work to do, yet are expected to read something which has taken a long time, and lots of funding, by many people and consultants PAID full-time, to compile. They are entitled to feel they are being rushed, because they are!
- 19) At the Griffith meeting, Michael Taylor, (chair MDBA) said that he was *working with banks behind the scenes!* This is an atrocious stab in the back for regional communities! Banks would be very happy to work at a top level because they then have the inside running, and can put enormous pressure on farmers and small business, with time to think about how to do it well in advance of actually squeezing their customers.
- 20) Banks also have a vested interest in **funding the transfer of assets** – it **keeps their system going**, which is *why* we have a **Global Financial Crisis**.
- 21) Banks have Multinational Corporate associates, who are in the market wanting to buy up cheap land and in particular, water, for nothing. By the MDBA *working behind the scenes* with the banks, it is (*probably unknowingly*) facilitating a form of **insider trading** which will transfer water and land to multinational corporates. Australia will then have no food security, and will become serfs to overseas ownership, which we are well on the way to doing¹⁰.
- 22) The MDBA's actions, across the board, point to benefiting the banks and multi-national corporates, which will ultimately be at the expense of the environment. There are a multitude of examples of environmental abuse by multinationals (*which are much larger than national economies*) in third world countries.
- 23) Again, food security is at risk for ALL Australians. We will be importing poor quality cheaply produced third world food at a premium price rather than eating our own produce, produced efficiently, cleanly, and relatively greenly, especially when compared with those nations we would be importing from. The MDBA is facilitating poor health for all Australians, most of whom will be unable to afford to pay for good Australian produce.
- 24) This is *Green Vandalism*. The Green agenda is not green. Australian farmers are truly *green*. They want to conserve their farms for future generations, and manage them accordingly. They have no interest in destabilizing their livelihoods, or their environment. Their only interest is to improve it, and operate more efficiently. I suggest that if the Green Agenda is so important, that we begin by taking all cars off the road, stop flying, stop mining, stop industry and production, and all go and die somewhere. Whilst that may sound extreme, it is the *logical extension* of what is being asked of our communities. We need to understand that if we wish to live our lives in relative comfort, with good food and a good lifestyle, **that there are concessions we have to make**, therefore, we must plan to supply ourselves with our people's needs in a fit and proper manner, giving due consideration to both the environment and people.
- 25) One would question severely the *research* and *science* that has gone into the MDBA statement that ONLY 800 jobs would be lost. Clearly, this is a gross underestimation.

**Food security
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**This is
*Green Vandalism***

10 Evidence has been well documented over a long period of time by courts, individuals, through banking enquiries etc, and are now regularly written about by Dr Evan Jones, Honorary Associate Professor in Political Economy at the University of Sydney (ret).

- 26) Since that's such a gross underestimation to anyone actually living in the Riverina, people who understand the nature of flow-on effects (which already happens in times of droughts and industry down-turns), understand it will be at least **10 times** that number! It brings into grave question the relevancy of all the *research and science* applied to the proposed MDB Plan.
- 27) Mike Taylor told the Griffith meeting¹¹ that the MDBA had used the *best available science*. So much science was used that the whole Volume 1 was produced, and then after the Griffith meeting, Mike Taylor said (15/10/10) that the figure (i.e., the amount of water which would need to be taken from farmers) would be **significantly MORE** than he'd originally notified!
- 28) The Guide to the Basin Plan – Volume 1, thanks¹² those people whose knowledge and support it had drawn on, and those involved in “*developing underpinning information and knowledge, assisting with the development of policy positions, or technical scrutiny of early drafts. The Authority and staff would like to thank everyone for their assistance, including the community members who participated in workshops and forums and provided feedback and comments.* (See Appendix A)”
- 29) On looking at Appendix A, one finds many government departments, consultants, and even the *Therapeutic Goods Administration!* Were they consulted because of their good record in shutting industry down¹³?
- 30) Did the MDBA consult Dr Mark Fenton of Environment and Behaviour Consultants to work out how to stand in front of crowds and continually say “*I'll take that on board*”, or to work out how people would react when the Plan was explained? Were they right?
- 31) Rather than talk to the likes of Murrumbidgee Irrigation, who have a track record in managing water, the MDBA has spoken to the following:
- Mr Per Bertilsson, Stockholm International Water Institute, Sweden
 - Professor Asit K Biswas, Institute for Water management, Mexico
 - Dr Donna Brennan, Centre for Agricultural Policy, Vietnam
 - Professor John Briscoe, Gordon McKay Professor, Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, United States
 - Professor Michael Hanemann, Dept of Agricultural & Resource Economics, University of California at Berkeley, United States
 - Professor Gene E Likens, Carey Institute of Ecosystem Studies, United States
 - Professor Jun Xia, Key Laboratory of Water Cycle & Related Surface Water processes; Director, Centre for Water Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.
- 32) While it may be appropriate to talk with these people/groups, it seems incongruous that more local groups were not consulted, nor an effort made to consult with more stakeholders in the affected communities **until after the release of the Plan (Vol 1).**

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11 Meeting held at the Yoogali Club, Griffith on 14/10/10 to explain Volume 1 of the Proposed Basin Plan

12 Acknowledgement (p. iv) - Guide to the proposed Basin Plan – Vol 1 – MDBA

13 Eg. Pan Pharmaceuticals

- 33) Did the United States people mention how Las Vegas manages to get by without water restrictions in the middle of a desert?
- 34) Did Vietnam advise the Authority about the 24 dams they are building there? Did Australia get the message that it's OK to build dams?
- 35) Did Sweden inform the MDBA about the number of Nordic dams supplying people and providing ecosystems and micro bio-systems.
- 36) China and Mexico may be appropriate, as China has invested heavily in Australia, and in 20 years time, it will build dams and do anything else it sees fit without any regard to environmental considerations.
- 37) Mexico could be appropriate, as they may be able to show us what sort of devastation will come from demolishing rural communities through economic control and restrictions on monetary supply ushered in *behind the scenes* by the cosy MDBA relationship with the **Big 4 Banking Gobbleopoly**.
- 38) We have totally thrown out our rule-book – the Australian Constitution, which, above all, asserts that governments are to legislate *for the benefit and well-being* of its people. Closing irrigation areas down is NOT legislating for our people - it is legislation benefitting outsiders to the detriment of *our* people.
- 39) Legislating through the External Affairs Power¹⁴ in this, and most other instances, is totally contradictory to the well-being of Australians. We are capable of, and able to institute our own laws, without invoking international instruments, and inviting other countries to stifle our industries and people.
- 40) A current example of Australian laws being totally disregarded, and Australians being ruled from shores afar is the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) decision¹⁵ to allow NZ apples into Australia, despite the fact there has been a 90 year impost on apple imports from NZ to PROTECT the Australian industry from Fire Blight disease.
- 41) **Due to the fact that Australia is party to the WTO agreement and its instruments, AQIS¹⁶ and the Australian Quarantine laws are rendered totally useless. Our laws are able to be judged, changed and dispensed with by people who don't even live in Australia!** Fire Blight is just the tip of the iceberg, as the Tasmanian Dam Case was, making way for a plethora of International instruments which effectively OVER-RIDE Australian laws.
- 42) This statement has already been vindicated, with China having already shipped apples to Australia on the back of that WTO judgment, and we have no choice but to acquiesce. Further, we appear unable to refuse China because they won't put stickers with the nation of origin on their fruit as our law requires.
- 43) This abuse of the External Affairs Power¹⁷ was foreshadowed in the Tasmanian Dam Case¹⁸ by dissent-

Our laws are able to be judged, changed and dispensed with by people who don't even live in Australia

14 S 51 (xxix) – Constitution - Commonwealth of Australia

15 WTO Decision handed down on 29/11/2010

16 Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

17 S 51 (xxix) – Constitution - Commonwealth of Australia

18 Commonwealth Vs Tasmania – landmark decision by High Court 1/7/1983

ing High Court Judges Wilson J and Gibbs CJ.

a. Judge Wilson said: "... It is no exaggeration to say that what is emerging is a sophisticated network of international arrangements directed to the personal, economic, social and cultural development of all human beings. The effect of investing the Parliament with power through section 51 (xxix) in all these areas would be **transfer to the Commonwealth of virtually unlimited power** in almost every conceivable aspect of life in Australia, including health and hospitals, the work place, law and order, education and recreational and cultural activity to mention but a few ..."

b. Justice Gibbs said, speaking of the same thing: "... there would be no field of power which the Commonwealth could not invade, and the federal balance achieved by the Constitution could be entirely destroyed ..."

44) Yet, Justice Lionel Murphy (*arguably Australia's greatest humanist*) was concerned that the external affairs power would be insufficient to implement some treaties, and that: "... Australia would be an International cripple unable to participate fully in the emerging world order ..."

a. Note: Australia is committed to World Government because we signed the **New International Economic Order**¹⁹, a fact that Lionel Murphy was well aware of.

45) Justice Gibbs has been proved correct, as there is no federal balance now; the *Commonwealth* can over-ride anything they like by invoking the External Affairs Power, thus all balance intended in the Constitution is destroyed, and a quasi-dictatorship established which has nothing to do with *Common Wealth* for all Australians.

46) **Consequently, before we as a Nation go any further, it is imperative that we strike the proposed Basin Plan from legislation, and amend the Water Act to exclude ANY reference to ANY International Convention, Treaty, Agreement, Declaration or other International instrument which can be invoked to OVER-RIDE Australian law and the well-being of Australian people, their future food security and their industry. The current Water Act with recent amendments should itself be revoked if the above amendments are problematic, and a new Act as it was (prior to any references to International Instruments), be drawn. It can consequently be built upon if there is true agreement between the States, rather than being shanghaied into it under the External Affairs Power, as was the case when Malcolm Turnbull ushered the Act in.**

47) **Water is NOT scarce in Australia** – *this is a myth pedalled by Internationalists, Multi-national corporations, Green groups and others with a vested interest in de-populating regional Australia, crueLLing industry, and buying up cheap land and business. Once control is gained, they will "lobby" government (having larger businesses than our economy) if that is even necessary by then, and build dams for themselves without*

...there would be
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High Court Justice Gibbs CJ
1/7/1983

regard to any environmental considerations whatsoever.

- 48) **Water is NOT scarce in Australia. Australia is the 3rd richest water nation per capita in the world.** It is possible to capture water which could flow through the Murray Darling System.

Only the political will is required ...

At last, our nation might be allowed to have a proper discussion without being persecuted for the thought!

49) **Only the political will is required** to proceed with schemes like the Clarence River diversion inland that will give, through it's hydro power, enough clean energy to supply the northern rivers areas of NSW to (and over) the Qld border with hydro electricity. In doing so, if just 20% of the excess flow for the river system was captured, that **20% is equivalent to the WHOLE of the water volume in the Murray Darling System.** This water could be sent down the Murray Darling System and *would take the pressure off irrigators and the need for environmental flows.*

50) Australia has just been, or is now still inundated with floodwater in nearly every State. **Millions of megalitres are going out to sea,** of which a portion could be captured and stored for use in dry years. Brisbane, for example, has been saved a much larger catastrophe by the presence of Wivenhoe Dam. On the back of massive flooding, there is now positive conversation regarding building dams whereas mentioning it has been something of a dirty word for the last 20-30 years. At last, it would seem *our nation might be allowed to have a proper discussion without being persecuted for the thought!*

- 51) The Fitzroy River (WA) dumps **48 tonnes** of fresh water **per second** out to sea in full flood in summer time. Australia is not short of water – we are not a dry nation.

- 52) In fact, it is impossible to waste water on a global scale – water can only be wasted if it could be sent out into the stratosphere! The reason is that it all stays on earth as rain, snow, dew, moisture, storage, or soaks into ground. That which is captured in the Artesian Basin is recycled. We CAN divert it, if we had the political will, but we CAN'T waste it **because it can't get out into the stratosphere!** We can make better use of it by damming it, and we could even afford to make a dam where none of the water was used for irrigation purposes, but solely to put an environmental flow into the river system in dry years.

- 53) Subscribers to *The International Journal on Hydropower and Dams*²⁰ cite the list of dams under construction globally in 2010 which walls are taller than 60 metres:

a. Vietnam	24
b. China	60
c. Spain	7
d. Greece	5
e. Brazil	10

Australia is the 3rd Richest Water Nation per capita in the world

- f. Morocco 9
- g. India 10
- h. Iran 47
- i. Japan 24
- j. Burma 11
- k. Turkey 18
- l. Australia 3*

- i. Heightening a dam wall on the Hinz dam
- ii. Enlarging the Cotter Dam supplying Canberra
- iii. The Tillegra Dam in the Hunter (probably unlikely to proceed)

The extremes of political madness are more debilitating than the extremes of the weather

54) Adelaide requires just 250 gigalitres per annum to live in the manner to which they've become accustomed, and Perth, 350 gigs. In north-eastern Australia alone, 150,000 gigalitres flow out to sea each year. If we captured some from the Fitzroy, some from the Gulf, and some from the Clarence, Inland Australia could be open for business, and be a large player in world agriculture. Our **food security** could be assured, or if we just want to supply the undefined *environment*, we could simply do that by this means, and leave the current irrigation areas **as they are**.

55) Australia is an island; we have the ability to produce exceptionally clean and healthy food very economically, as Australian farmers are recognised the world over as being *the most efficient*. They are innovators and Australia is an inventive nation. We have the capacity to build more dams to catch run-off in high rainfall years such as this (and last), where much water from extensive flooding could have been harvested and utilised to *send environmental flows down the Murray Darling River System monthly over a period of a very long time*. Assuming we simply build a dam for the birds, frogs, Adelaide and the Lower Lakes, then there would be no need be a draw on current irrigation water. Perhaps, emboldened by that, we could *improve storage facilities for water to bolster food security and sure up water allocation* so that farmers could **plan in advance instead of living with total uncertainty**, not caused by extremes of weather, but *extremes of political madness*.

56) The money spent already on the MDBA Plan and consultants etc could probably have built one such dam which could have serviced Adelaide and the Lower Lakes and put paid to petty inter-State rivalries. The birds and frogs would be happy too, as they would have new almost permanent, habitats.

57) There is no *science* in withdrawing a water supply which people have a right to rely on, since it was put there to BUILD our Nation and our regions. **The flow-on impacts of water reductions will include:**

There is no "science" in withdrawing a water supply

a. Many **FARMERS** can't survive, because they can't afford to pay interest to the Banking Gobbleopoly. They have no water security, and can't budget to plant crops if they don't know whether water will be available, or what the eventual cost will be.

b. Consequently, farmers won't spend in the business community. Farms will drop in value as everyone needs to sell because there is no future security, and there is **only so much mental and financial**

stress they can take.

- c. Farmers have invested heavily in water-saving techniques. None of this can be recovered, even over a period of years as is always budgeted for. The Banking Gobbleopoly are far from benevolent societies, and will not stand for such uncertainty. They will want their pound of flesh. There is **only so much mental and financial stress farmers can take.**
- d. Often, farmers will sell short of what they owe the Banking Gobbleopoly and creditors.
- e. Families will be broken and distraught, wives and children will be devastated as they are forced to deal with the suicide of their husbands and fathers, who feel a total failure because they can't support their families. They've lost the family farm, which has been in the family for three or more generations. They feel helpless, battling against a government and a bureaucracy who have no feel for the bush, who don't live in regional Australia, and the closest they get is eating the cheap food produced there, because their policies have made it possible to force farmers to produce for less than the cost of production. There is **only so much mental and financial stress farmers can take.**
- f. Farmers will see their industries taken over by the hovering vultures - big multi-national gobbleopolies who well-understand that FOOD is going to be more important than GOLD in coming years, and to them, food security is an imperative business goal.
- g. The **Rice industry** is currently in this situation. Farmers are between a rock and a hard place. *To sell, or not to sell?*
 - i. *To sell* – because they don't know if water will be available in 5 years time, so cash in now. In five years time, the current buyer might sell out to another buyer, who has no allegiance to our rice industry, and may just want to buy up cheap land (before building dams for their own use, or buying the whole Snowy Mountain Scheme, which nearly happened recently, and is still on the cards).
 - ii. *Not to sell* – can they hold out with the uncertainty of perhaps not having a water supply? They need the infrastructure they've built up, *but* what will it be worth if they have no use for it in the case of having no water?
 - iii. Governments in Australia make GROF policies designed to **Get Rid Of Farmers**. Agriculture is not considered a noble profession in Australia. Agriculture is at the bottom of the food chain; farmers are price takers, not setters. All their actions to ensure a fair price have resulted in GROF policy which has seen the Australian Wheat Board disbanded, and all the infrastructure owned by farmers stolen and sold to international corporate gobbleopolies which consider food valuable, but only want to pay peanuts for it. Wool has gone the same way, and it has taken over 20 years to recover (if indeed, one could say it has recovered). Perhaps the MDBA could look at some of those statistics when it makes "*scientific*" evaluations of the *minimal effects* water cuts will have on communities? Many manufacturing industries in Australia have been forced offshore to survive, or simply

**Farmers,
Families,
Small Business,
Jobs, Industry,
Whole Towns**

....
**none will
escape the
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Murray-Darling
System**

haven't survived, costing taxpayers a packet to support those who lost jobs in the wash-up. Now, the bell tolls for Rice – a perfectly good and profitable industry which supports many communities through direct and indirect jobs – about to be gobbled up by a multinational gobbleopoly!

Suicides will be inevitable as a result of this policy

iv. The MDBA and humanist Government policies are the cause of this uncertainty.

H. **SMALL BUSINESSES**, already dealing with the flow-on effects of ten years of drought in the area, will be further impacted as the money supply dries up. Owners will themselves work longer and longer hours, putting workers off to try to survive, before finally succumbing to the pressure, and trying to get out before the Banking Gobbleopoly swallows them up, along with all their equity, much of which will have already dissipated by then. There is **only so much mental and financial stress small business can take**.

i. Their families will break under the financial strain. Some suicides will be inevitable.

Jobs will dry up, along with the water

j. Mike Taylor told the Griffith meeting that he had made no provision for food security or **small business** to *exit*.

k. Jobs will dry up, along with the water

l. People will be forced to leave the area in search of work elsewhere. There is **only so much mental and financial stress employers and employees can take**.

m. The **FAMILY HOME** will fall dramatically in value. Where families may have borrowed \$250,000 to purchase a home, that home will now be only worth \$100,000 – if they can get it! People will be effectively (*if not formally*) bankrupted, losing all their equity, and everything they have saved for. The Federal Government and the MDBA, with the Banking Gobbleopoly will have *stolen* their equity from them. There is **only so much mental and financial stress families can take**.

N. **WORKING FAMILIES** will be broken and children will be devastated as the *suicide* of their husbands failure because they can't support the economic downturn on the procure a job elsewhere before the MDBA's mates, the Banking them, stealing any equity they family home, and often lose their battling against a government and a bureaucracy who have no feel for the bush, who don't live in regional Australia. The closest they get is eating the cheap food produced there, because their policies have made it possible to force farmers to produce for less than the cost of production, therefore not spending in the community, therefore forcing small business to put off workers and often, close their doors. There is **only so much mental and financial stress families can take**.

The Family Home will drop dramatically in value; equity will be lost to banks

ken and distraught, wives they are forced to deal with and fathers, who feel a total port their families. Due to back of the GFC²¹, they can't nancial doom in the form of Gobbleopoly, forecloses on may have left. They've lost the families. They feel helpless,

Working Families will be broken & distraught

If there are no people, there is no need for water or the infrastructure... or jobs that go with them

o. The **CIRCLE** continues – it's not *baffling science*, MDBA, just plain common sense - and a kick in the guts for fellow humans while the welfare of frogs and birds is put on a pedestal, elevated above all else to the point of complete stupidity, and in total contradiction of Biblical principles embedded in our Constitution.

p. Finally, taken to the nth degree, if there are no people, there is no need for water or the infrastructure, or the jobs that go with them but, in the way of *Yes Minister*²², a way will be found to perpetuate this madness, which will probably be (*yes, a light bulb moment!*) sell to a *Multinational Gobbleopoly!*

q. No, this isn't as stupid as it sounds, because this will truly be reality for many people, **and already is**, due to the MDBA's Plan and the Government legislation which enabled it.

58) It is interesting to note that whilst the drought was on, neither the MDBA nor any government agency did anything to clear out Carp from our rivers. European Carp are an environmental enemy, causing erosion and depopulation of our native fish species. **Why didn't the MDBA see fit to have the rivers – while in a very low state – fished out of Carp?** This would truly have been something to brag about, instead of fishing out the people who live and rely on the water in the productive regions of Australia!

In the way of *Yes Minister*, a way will be found to perpetuate this madness

59) No doubt due to Ramsar and the other International Instruments, the MDBA has chosen to ignore Section 100 of the Australian Constitution:

a. **NOR ABRIDGE RIGHT TO USE WATER**²³: *The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade or commerce, abridge the right of a State or of the residents therein to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation.*

60) Truly, Federal Governments, State Governments, many in Opposition at all levels of government, and the MDBA, have treasonably ignored the above (S.100). The words of Justice Gibbs & Wilson ring loudly. The States and their residents are being deprived of water by laws and regulations brought about by the invocation of the External Affairs Power, which ought to have precedence by way of it **preceding** the treaties that the Act refers to, clearly in contravention of Section 100.

61) Such ignorance of the rights of people over the environment is a humanist agenda, and totally ignores the fact that our Commonwealth Constitution is a Christian document, steeped in Biblical principles, which has given our nation a legacy of legal and historical precedents which uphold Christian Principles. Such principles acknowledge the Christian God as Creator and provider of our needs; the Bible (or the Word of the Creator) as the basis for governance, and as **the** guide, or goal, for human behaviour towards one another, and towards the creatures and environment with which we are entrusted.

62) The United Nations is a humanist organisation, and its laws reflect this, with many noble words written which have the opposing effect when implemented. In signing these international agreements and allowing them to over-ride our Constitution, we are eroding our Christian rights, **which allow us to be truly free and decentralised**. This is in **total contradiction to the centralist and socialist agenda of global government** being ushered in under the guise of a plethora of warm and fuzzy international agreements, several of which have been invoked in the Water Act. This means that the

22 British (BBC) Comedy Series about the machinations of parliamentary decisions
23 S 100 – Constitution – Commonwealth of Australia

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MDBA can ONLY take into consideration the environmental issues which come under the auspices of the many agreements, conventions and UN instruments which dictate, or totally override, the Water Act and the Constitution which it sits under. **Mike Taylor's resignation has totally reinforced and emphasised my submission's contents.** The MDBA knows this. The Government know this. Malcolm Turnbull knew this.

63) Consequently, it is the **environment before people, whether we like it or not, UNLESS** the Water Act is revoked, which is necessary for good, sensible and reasonable government **IN** Australia, **FOR** Australians – **not for those who live overseas who are not Australian citizens. There needs to be a return to governance FOR our nation, not AGAINST it.**

- 64) As a people, we should always remember that before dams and irrigation, our rivers dried up. The River Red Gums, birds, fish and frogs didn't disappear, but while some died, the rest went into "*drought protection mode*", and the species survived. As a people, we need to remember that we do have a land of extremes, and it would well behove us to read *Dorothea Mackellar's "My Country"* again, and remember that we can't control the weather, but we can harvest the rain when it comes - when it drums *the drumming of an army, the steady, soaking rain!* We do not have to cause more heartbreak to our hard-working farmers, small business people and workers who ARE the fabric of our rich regional society by **withdrawing a water-supply that the irrigation areas of Australia were built on.**
- 65) I personally do not believe that water rights were able to legally be detached from *land*, and again, our nation was a victim of a sleight-of-hand action by vested interests. When water became a commodity, our troubles began. Water that was previously (*I believe rightfully*) attached to land, **was** the *environmental flow*. Most farmers never used their full water rights. Once a dollar figure was attached to water (*greed on many fronts*), water became a commodity to be traded, and people sold water they *never* used, to those who would use it, because that's the reason they purchased. Banks were able to take security over water (which had never been the case), and farmers having tough times were forced to sell their water rights. Land values decrease dramatically, because it becomes just another way of stealing equity. Much of this was seen during the drought.
- 66) Our nation does not need the "*structural adjustment*" of those who are efficient and industrious but are unable to survive due to long droughts and government *tax-debt policies* - which mean businesses either need to be in debt to avoid crippling tax, or pay tax which cripples innovation. As dam-building is a dirty word, so too is taking a leaf out of our own nation-building book and making the credit available for infrastructure a dirty word, actively discouraged by the banking gobbleopoly with their vested interests of making mega-profits. This is backed up by a compliant media, putting down anyone who mentions using our national credit for the benefit of it's people and ending up with infrastructure, or health systems which could be the envy of the developed world. Just because people have forgotten how it works, or how it would benefit our nation or encourage

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& diversification in
Regional Australia**

innovation, is no reason *not* to have a national discussion about it.

- 67) If only we could recognise that we, as a nation, **give** banks the privilege of creating credit, loaning, and charging people interest *without any cost to them save operating a computer*, we could understand that unlike farmers who need to grow a crop to sell, banks only create credit, which certainly isn't at the mercy of the vagaries of the weather. However, **it is prudent for the nation** to create credit, based on the national capacity of Australia, in order to, for example, restore infrastructure due to the floods; finance farmers and small business long term (10-20 years) for say 2% in the *interests of food security and protecting our standard of living as a nation; and in the interests of Advancing Australia*. Where credit is loaned or used in such a fashion, it is not inflationary, as it contributes to the common wealth of our nation. However, the banking gobbleopoly has such a foothold globally now, that it is able to influence governments and media by withdrawing their bits of trading paper and holding any nation who, for example, would consider setting/partially setting their dollar (*or basing it on a basket of commodities*) so that it couldn't be interfered with — to ransom. There are many ways which could address these issues, and the problem isn't insurmountable. Perhaps the current flood disaster could be a catalyst to address it, although doing so would mean very strong and active opposition from the banking community, who always know what is best for the rest of Australia (as do economists who haven't been taught about our own banking history).
- 68) If as a nation we were to use credit prudently and curtail the banks, it would save us millions in interest - another convention created by man and adopted by the banking gobbleopoly to steal the productive capacity of nations. How much more noble would it be to take this burden from our citizens, and build our nation, as we once did, which is *why the Commonwealth Bank came into existence* (i.e., there IS a precedence for this, but like dam-building, we aren't allowed to have the discussion). The *quantitative easing* (or created credit) can be written off once we have infrastructure to replace it, thus facilitating assets without the need to pay them off for hundreds of years, we and other nations now do. This isn't to say that we "print money" or issue credit till the cows come home, which IS actually what the banks have done globally. If we do that, we can see what we end up with - a Global Financial Crisis. Yet prudentially managed on a national scale, it would be (*as in the past*) of enormous benefit to Australia, and would provide funds for infrastructure such as road, rail, dams, schools etc. As a nation, we ought to be having the discussion, without being railroaded by vested interests. However, I'm cynical enough not to expect any miracles where this is concerned, as vested interests usually win, simply because we haven't been *eternally vigilant*.
- 69) *"Free government is founded in jealousy, not confidence. It is jealousy and not confidence which prescribes limited constitutions, to bind those we are obliged to trust with power.... In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in men, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."*
~ Thomas Jefferson, 1799.
- 70) The Tasmanian Dam Case was a watershed for the Australian Constitution. The abuse of the External Affairs Power has had the effect of releasing the chains of the Constitution on those who are in a position to abuse it, with the effect that the **nation is chained by debt and red tape** which effectively delivers free nations to global corporations.

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- 71) We do NOT need **structural adjustment programs**; we need opportunities for economic growth and diversification in regional Australia. Once more, floods aside, we, as a nation, are at a watershed moment. Do we have the courage to build, to create the funds to make it happen in a prudent manner, underwriting long-term, low interest loans, and repairing infrastructure without great cost to the nation and its taxpayers? Do we dare to encourage innovation? Can we build capacity and resilience in this great nation of ours, despite being — *and because we are* — a land of extremes?
- 72) I submit that the Federal Government **MUST** revoke the Water Act and recommence negotiations with the States. The Act which replaces it **MUST NOT** have any reference to any international agreements, conventions or treaties. If there is no agreement, States should not be dragged into it by the incorrect use of the External Affairs Power of the Constitution. This means decimation of rural and regional communities, families, businesses and industries. Inland Australian doesn't need another *recession we had to have*, or events like the decimation of our manufacturing industries through government policies. It doesn't need decimation and *adjustment* like the wool industry had to go through, from which it has never recovered. Australia needs good common-sense governance, similar to that of farming and small business, which allows the nation to prosper.
- 73) As a nation, we need to learn to work with the seasons — making allowances in financial and tax policy for those regional Australian businesses reliant on seasonal conditions; and unashamedly build our capacity to harvest water in times of flooding rain to compensate for the droughts, fires and famines of our vast sunburnt country. We are an innovative nation - we can store enough water if we harvest what now goes out to sea. The costs of moving it between storages are nothing when compared to the damage of the tsunami-type floods or droughts, which are just very slow and painful tsunamis, easily able to be largely ignored by governments of all persuasions.
- 74) I finish this submission with Dorothea Mackellar's *My Country*, and remind the MDBA and Governments that we have coped with fires, drought and floods in recent years on a large scale, and while the drought can't be prevented, nor the floods, we can capture water to minimise the effects of both floods and drought, and we ought, as a duty to our nation and our people, **store in years of plenty** for the lean years. It's plain common sense — and somehow, somewhere along the line, we've abandoned it.

Jeanine McRae,

Griffith. NSW. 2680.

17/1/2011

*Next Page: Poem - **My Country** by Dorothea Mackellar – still a fitting tribute to our nation, and a timely reminder that we can't change what is not ours to change.*

**Advance
Australia
Fairly**

My Country

By

Dorothea Mackellar

(1885-1968)

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes.
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins,
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft dim skies
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us,
We see the cattle die-
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold-
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land-
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand-
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

**Advance
Australia
Fair**