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SC

Mr Tony Windsor, MP  
PO Box 963  
Tamworth  
NSW, 2340

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010

Dear Mr Windsor,

**RE: Murray Darling River**

We are bitterly disappointed at the way in which the government has handled the question of minimum environmental water allocations in the MDB; and frustrated by the nonsensical rhetoric of the need for a triple-bottom-line approach.

1. For decades the triple bottom line has seen the environment given the lowest priority after economic and social considerations. This is precisely the reason that the biological health of the MDB has reached a point of no return.
2. The 2007 act went some small way to redress the balance and enshrine in legislation the need for minimum environmental flows to return the MDB from the brink of a biological catastrophe; and one that would ultimately ensure the demise of economic and social interest.
3. It now seems that rather than showing leadership to ensure the future health of the MDB, by setting minimal environmental flows, the government is taking the easy option. All recent political and media rhetoric centres around pandering to short term economic interests by yet again placing the environment at the bottom of the pile and reducing what are already the absolute minimum water requirements (~4gig) for biological health.

Rather than taking the easy option of yet again eroding environmental flows the government should be putting in place the processes required to transition extant water users and communities along the MDB to operate with a guaranteed minimum environmental flow of 4 gig (the majority of Australia's water experts suggest that 7 gig is the minimum for river health under best bet climate change predictions).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Clive Carlyle & Dr Catherine Pye