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Tony Windsor MP
Member for New England
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Regional Australia
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Windsor

Re: inquiry into socio-economic impact of the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Authority's
'Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan'

I am a longtime lover of the Goolwa area and the Coorong's beautiful environment-it will be
incredibly sad if this area is lost for future Australians.

I simply request that your committee please save the lower Murray and work out the best way
you can to do this. If appeasing individual farmers is necessary through financial outlay then we
will have to do this through our taxes. But we cannot continue to exploit and destroy our
environment for the economic advantage of a few. Maybe those in the earlier reaches of the
Murray Darling will have to change their crops to more dryland farming products.

My vote will go to politicians and parties who act to save the Lower Murray

Please all committee members approach this issue with a view to the long term-not quick votes
at the next election

Kind regards

Sharon Holmes
Barrister and Solicitor
South Australia

2. Inquiry Terms of Reference :

The will into and report on the (the Proposed Basin Plan) on regional communities, with
particular reference to:

- The direct and indirect impact of the Proposed Basin Plan on regional communities,
including agricultural industries, local business activity and community wellbeing;
- Options for water-saving measures or water return on a region-by-region basis with
consideration given to an analysis of actual usage versus licence entitlement over the preceding
fifteen years
- The role of governments, the agricultural industry and the research sector in developing
and delivering infrastructure and technologies aimed at supporting water efficiency within the
Murray-Darling Basin.

In examining each of these issues, the Committee will also consider community views on:

- Measures to increase water efficiency and reduce consumption and their relative cost effectiveness;
- Opportunities for economic growth and diversification within regional communities; and
- Previous relevant reform and structural adjustment programs and the impact on communities and regions.

This will include consultation with Local Government, Regional Development Australia, community groups and individual stakeholders to better understand the local and community issues raised by the Proposed Basin Plan.