



10th December, 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100 – Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Draft Murray Darling Basin Authority Plan

I am writing to urge you to oppose the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Draft Plan for the Murray Darling Basin.

From a personal perspective my husband and I are employed in agricultural businesses that are directly reliant on the irrigation industry for all operations. I am highly concerned that the MDBA Plan's proposed water reductions will threaten our job security and future employment which will in turn affect not only our lives but also the lives of our 2 children. If we lose our job we will be forced to leave Moree and this will mean the local businesses and sporting clubs we support will suffer. Also schools in our area will have reduced funding as the number of children will be decreasing at an alarming rate.

I thought the Government was trying to get more people to move to the country to reduce the pressure being put on our major centers due to over population. People will not be able to move to the country as there will be no jobs there as the government would have taken all the water away that allows our towns to run and also when the water is taken away who will be providing food etc for the whole of the country. As a result metropolitan areas will also be affected by increases in food prices if the proposed water cuts eventuate due to a decrease in food production.

I request that the Water Act be amended so that both socio-economic and environmental outcomes are given equal consideration. I also suggest that the MDBA consult the National Irrigators Council and NSW Irrigators Council on this issue.

As shown in a Telstra advertisement on TV.... NOT HAPPY JAN!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely

Deanne Vanderstok