



December 10, 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.

The recent resignation of the MDBA Chair, Michael Taylor, has done little to instill my confidence in the authority to make informed decisions for the environment and for Basin communities. After attending the MDBA community consultation meeting in Moree I am not convinced that the scientific data presented in the guide has been balanced with the social and economic outcomes. Furthermore, one of the greatest flaws in the MDBA's consultation process is the failure to engage local knowledge and expertise in enhancing the draft plan.

I am employed by an agricultural management business in Moree that is directly reliant on the irrigation industry in order to remain economically viable. I moved to Moree from Adelaide because of the high calibre of job prospects in the agricultural industry. If the draft plan goes ahead I will have no choice but to move back to Adelaide; a choice that many will have to make resulting in increased housing pressure for metropolitan areas. How will it be possible to encourage city dwellers to relocate to rural areas when there are limited job prospects?

Moree has already experienced significant rural decline between the drought years of 2001-2010 – permanent reductions in water will significantly constrain post-drought recovery and will result in population and job loss.

Please help us to protect our livelihood and to ensure the survival of our community.

Sincerely,



Felicity Hennessey