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15<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority regarding the "Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan Overview".

We the above, operate a beef breeding enterprise of 1000 head on the Kiewa River below Kiewa.

I am of the view that irrigation water is only used over the period November/March and all flows outside these periods are available for environmental use down stream. A six month full winter flow.

I note environmental is a term used for "water quantity" for the Murray River down stream. Real environmental management is a far greater issue and great examples of management can be noted through out the Kiewa Valley Catchment areas. My family engaged a consultant at a considerable cost to our farm to advise on total environmental issues. As a result after work was completed "waterways fenced off, water troughs provided for stock etc." our farm was awarded the "Victorian Environmental Farm Award" and also the Local Land Care Award for the North East.

The farmers of our region outlay considerable money and effort conserving water, irrigation water is pumped directly from the river and therefore no costs to the Government bodies.

Our area is a high fire prone region and it is vital for water to be held in dams etc. for easy access for CFA. Dams are being built by the farmers at their own expense. Only portions of farm holdings are being irrigated however, during summer this is a safe haven in the event of a fire.

I note on the document Table 5.3 refers to forestry plantations. I do not believe such plantations exist in the Kiewa Valley area.

We believe as no water is taken from the Kiewa for 6 months of the year (the winter flow period) that the Kiewa's contribution to the environment would be met with no alteration to the current structure whatsoever.

The Kiewa Valley is a region where salt is not an issue. It is a major contributor for food supply through dairying in the area. It is the area for food to be produced.

My summing up of the situation is

1. With no alteration to the current structure water flows passing should be ample for down stream requirements.

2. The Kiewa region would be an area where tax payer's money is least required with water usage.
3. Food would be a major concern if water is restricted.
4. Environmental should be a concern for our region equally for lower catchments.
5. Farmers pay a premium for Kiewa Valley properties and will have paid for a service that may not be available.
6. Finally reducing current water supplies etc. will take away jobs and of course further weaken the smaller rural communities.

I feel with the climate situation in this region being very suitable for other food production and industry we must not be disadvantaged with water reductions.

Yours faithfully

K E McIntosh