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Dear Sir

I am an irrigation farmer and solicitor at Tocumwal and Finley in Southern Riverina Region of NSW.

As I am not sure my position has been received by MDBA and I want it considered, I am sending it to you and I am confident you will deal with it.

1. All legislation should be reviewed and amended if necessary to ensure it is within the power of Authority to enlarge existing dam storage, build new dam storage and bring in water from outside the Basin, eg. from north of Warrego River a pipeline to Warrego River - a precedent exists, Goulburn-Murray Water by pipe to Melbourne.

2. Investigate and if possible enlarge existing dam storage in the Basin.

3. Investigate and if possible build new dam storage in the Basin. Benefits for recreation are enormous as well.

4. Investigate bringing in water from outside the Basin to the Basin and if possible bring it in by pipe or otherwise.

5. The proposals to date are negative and destructive destroying significant irrigation infrastructure and families.

6. Proposals should be positive progressive and build on systems in place, improve not destroy.

7. The Plan was hatched in one of our worst droughts ever, current rain events show there still will be excess water in the system from time to time and this water needs to be stored for dry years.

8. Murray River would have stopped flowing years ago without Hume and Dartmouth Dams.

9. If climate change experts are right and there will be more extreme rain events and droughts, again we need to store the excess water when available for the dry years.

10. The implications are too great not to hasten slowly and ensure every alternative is checked and nothing should stand in the way, such as bad or inadequate legislation as it can be changed and must be.

11. Construction of Hume Dam started 1911, Dartmouth Dam was built about 1970, our population and the Basin's has almost doubled since these times, with a similar increase in demand for water and food. Our infrastructure has not kept pace.

12. Two-thirds of Australia's food is grown within 160kms (100 miles) radius of Echuca, because of irrigation from Murrumbidgee, Murray and Goulburn Rivers systems. Where will our quality food, the production of which we can control and know what chemicals have been applied, come from, if irrigation is reduced? We need to produce more food, not less.

13. An Environmental dam should be built for environmental flows, like Hume and Dartmouth Dams were built for irrigation. Again with benefits for recreation.

14. It is not enough for the guidelines to be reviewed for social and economic consequences, storage and new water in the Basin need review as well.

Murray Lumley