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11 February 2011

Mr Tony Windsor
Member of Parliament
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Re: Reduction of Use of Irrigation Water in Murray Darling Catchment

I understand you have been appointed Chairman of the Federal Parliamentary Committee looking at how reduction of use of irrigation water in the Murray Darling catchment will effect society in that area. I understand the Committee is required to propose how the irrigation water reduction will be implemented. A difficult task.

I am aware the Irrigation Authority has proposed reducing available water for irrigation by between 27% and 37% to improve life in the rivers. Also to provide more water for downstream people in South Australia.

I understand the Committee is to assess the percentage of irrigation water reduction that is to be applied in different areas.

I suggest that whatever irrigation reduction is applied that it be introduced gradually in say 5 yearly steps so society has a chance to adjust gradually. For example if the Committee decides on a 30% reduction of water for irrigation, then I suggest introducing 5% in year 1 and then in 5% reductions every 5 years and take 25 years to introduce the irrigation reduction.

I will watch the outcome of the Committee deliberations with interest.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bubb