

The Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment,  
Communications and the Arts,  
Parliament house,  
Canberra, ACT 2600

January 26<sup>th</sup>.2009

Dear Sirs,

Re Submission to the Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Saving the Goulburn and Murray Rivers) Bill 2008.

As a landowner in The Upper Goulburn Catchment, and in the Yea River Valley with an 8 kilometre frontage to the Yea River I am extremely concerned that the North-South Pipeline currently being constructed will affect the groundwater through flow by acting as a barrier as the water flows from the high hills to the Yea River, which is below the pipeline route.

Groundwater in the Yea River system comprises 50% of the surface water.

This will not only affect all users in the Yea River system, but will have an impact on the inflow into the Goulburn River. The Yea River is a major tributary to the Goulburn, downstream of the North-South Pipeline Off-take at Killingworth, and this is the section of the Goulburn that will be severely affected when 75 GL per year is diverted to Melbourne.

As all environmental and scientific arguments have fallen on deaf ears both in the Victorian State Government and Federal Government, I am merely sending you some photos with information to show you just how dry our Upper Catchment is and has been for the last 12 years.

It beggars belief that we cannot seem to make politicians understand that removing 75 GL per year from the Goulburn River is an absolute disaster in the making.

If we are not receiving the inflows in the Upper Catchment to even allow our riverine environment here to survive, what hope is there for downstream river systems?

Also please find attached the stream flow figures provided by Goulburn Murray Water for the gauges at Eildon Weir, Trawool and Devlin's Bridge on the Yea River. You will find that if Melbourne Water divert 360ML/day as they are allowed, from the Goulburn River, they would be removing between 22%(when streamflow is 1570ML/day) and a massive 72%( when stream flow is 500ML/day) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 to 2<sup>nd</sup>. January 2009.

This is grossly in excess of MW's predictions in the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project Impact Assessment in April 2008, where they stated the diversion to Melbourne would have very little impact, taking only 3% - 6% of the flow as during the irrigation season ( 15<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> May) the flow is 5,000ML –10,000ML per day.

Melbourne Water have since revised their diversion rate as being between 6% and 15% of stream flow, but this is still greatly underestimated.

Yours Sincerely,  
Jan Beer



**Yea River minor branch - this branch never ran dry prior to 2003. Now it stops running every year between November and the autumn break. It would normally supply the majority of our stock water supply on 120Hectares of river flats.**



**Yea River minor Branch - showing height of bridge. In flood time water rises above this bridge by nearly one metre. We have had only one flood in the last 12 years.**



**Goulburn River Lagoon -- Dry lagoon on the Goulburn River Flats approximately 5k upstream of the North-South Pipeline Killingworth pump site off-take. It is obvious from the red gum re-growth how long it is since these lagoons have been full.**



**Goulburn River Lagoon 2 -- On the same property. The Farmer who owns this property is 87 years old, has lived in the area all his life and has never before seen these lagoons go dry. It is important to note that some of these lagoons do not only rely on Goulburn River overbank flows to fill. They also have a 1,000 acre catchment that discharges water onto the river flats, but this is no longer occurring due to the compounding effect of the last 12 extremely dry years.**



**Sheepwash Lagoon -- another lagoon with an extremely large catchment supply area, that is within one km. of the Goulburn River. This lagoon appears in our local history books, and no-one has ever seen it dry before**