

From:
To: [Committee, MDBP \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: MDBA plan
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27/8/2015

To the Senate Inquiry of the Murray Darling Basin Authority
and its Constraints Management Strategy

Dear Committee,

I wish to present the following submission for your consideration.

Firstly I have farmed on the Goulburn River at Molesworth since 1952 and certainly have seen the Goulburn River in many modes. My property includes 100 acres of low lying river flats just downstream of Running Creek. Sometime prior to my occupation Running Creek ran alongside Fullertons Rd but was diverted directly across the river flats by the Yea Council (I believe). Be that as it maybe, it has left a low channel that **cuts off my flats** with fast flowing water whenever we get either a creek flood or the Goulburn R. floods and backs up the creek.

In the past floods were described as natural DISASTERS and they were. Now the MDBA want to send us similar DISASTERS on a regular basis.

That 100 acres is the source of my hay crop as the majority of the rest of the property is steep hill country. I do not want the crop ruined by flooding. Also my hay shed is situated on the flats and access is vital. If all the stock have to be removed from the flats because of "over the bank" flows how do I access my hay to feed the stock on the hills? Years back we could row small bales of hay across the flood in a dingy- impossible now with round bales.

The releases of 9500 ml a day from Eildon Weir plus a little down stream inflow, are enough for minor flooding to occur on my flats. With flows of 20,000 ML day (minimum MDBA talk) much of my flats will go under water and low lying dips which are now producing valuable feed will again be filled with flood water which in some cases takes years to go down and then have to be resown.

I am not prepared to offer my property as an easement for 20,000 ML/day(or more) plus what rainfall may naturally be in the river, as I know what damage it can do to my pasture and fencing. It has taken years to get the flats to their current condition. If the MDBA is talking possible damage to roads and bridges - they are talking about a LOT of water. Over the years the local council has done its best to raise roads that were habitually being inundated.

Compensation We are told that there will be a "one -off" compensation payment. How can that be fair compensation if the MDBA is going to repeat the performance again and again? There will be court cases galore all of which will cost both farmers and the MDBA heaps of money. It will make the Goulburn River flats in this area almost worthless. Nobody will want to be cleaning up after flooding every few years. A job that cannot be done in a day or two.

How can compensation be assessed if the property has not been assessed prior to any "over the bank flows"????

How long will it take to assess the damage to each property?

Do we leave them untouched until someone comes to inspect the damage? (Thus delaying recovery)

How long will it take for payments to be made? etc etc?

The MDBA needs to look at each property **prior** to any "over the bank flows" so that an honest assessment can be made as to what damage could be done and again after the damage is done and again **each time the damage is done . They could then assess the cost of the PLAN in regards to the amount of money that would be needed for compensation.**

Also how is "inconvenience" going to be valued? It may be my biggest problem if the flows are not excessive.

How much **warning** are landholders going to be given?

Then comes the question of timing.

My flats are vital at calving time- safer for cows /easier to check. This takes out August /September /part October for Spring calving.

February / March/ part April - Autumn calving.

Hay paddocks locked up September - December

This leaves January, part April, May, June, July

My suggestion is that The MDBA purchase some pumps and collapsable hose and pump the water to where they want it - just as most other people have to do. The pumps and hose can then be relocated to the next site. Surely this must be a much cheaper option than upsetting the livelihood of farmers and businesses along this section (Eildon to Yea) of the Goulburn River and tributaries. I know that other sections of the scheme are also concerned.

Re the opening of the Murray River mouth - I believe it to be impossible.

With much concern.

Yours faithfully,

Muriel Perry