

From:
To: [Committee, MDBP \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: sub 19c - Temporary water and speculators in the Murray -Darling Basin
Date: Sunday, 20 September 2015 10:17:46 PM

The temporary water market is proving very expensive for users of irrigation water. Speculators have and can make huge profits at the expense of water users by buying large amounts of temporary water and selling it, for a profit when the price goes up as it becomes less available, by being withheld, from the water market. Large institutions and others with a vast knowledge of all aspects of the temporary water market can invest and make large profits from their investments.

The MDBA seem unable or reluctant to do anything about this impost on water users. Driving up the cost of production of irrigated agriculture by the actions of speculators is not in the public interest. The high price of temporary water is causing unnecessary hardship to productive water users.

I propose that water must only be bought by water users. Water buyers or users cannot be sellers. Water sellers cannot be water buyers. Each licence holder is given a number, even numbers are buyers, odd numbers are sellers. These numbers are allotted to each licence holder and used at every water trading transaction.

Any licence holder buying and selling water in the one water year will have their licence revoked. Trading temporary water between jointly owned water licences to circumvent these proposed new rules to prevent speculators in the temporary water market will be banned from any further buying and selling of temporary water for 5 years.

If a water buyer has excess water for that year it maybe carried over. If a water seller does not sell sufficient water in the water year, the water maybe carried over. The water market was set up to allow water to go to where it the most productive. Productivity creates wealth and employment. Speculators create nothing towards the national wealth and it must be stopped.

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