

Dear Senators

For years the Murray Darling Basin has been abused and treated like a magic pudding with successive governments approving massive over-allocations of extraction rights. Until the recent rains it has teetered on the edge of destruction - yet another sacrifice to the folly of human greed.

You must resist the calls to water down the environment protection aspects of the *Water Act* (pun intended). These calls come from ill-informed and just plain greedy individuals and companies who don't understand or don't care that a stressed or dead river helps noone.

It is clear that the *Water Act 2007* does not need to be amended in this way. It correctly prioritises the need to reduce water extraction and return water to the environment in order to support both the ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. It recognises the need to return extraction to long-term sustainable levels and this must remain the focus.

The act correctly acknowledges the need to base decisions about sustainable water extraction levels on the best available science. Any call to base decisions on a different 'balance' of social, economic and environmental considerations will rely on politics, ideology and not science. These calls must be resisted.

Extraction levels must return to sustainable levels and the *Water Act* was designed to enable this. It must be protected and enforced.

Sincerely

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