

The Water Act 2007 Submission 18th March 2011

Manduka Cooperative

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We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this debate on the interpretation of The Water Act 2007: whether there should be equal weighting of 'economic, social and environmental outcomes' in regard to the allocation of water within the Murray Darling Basin.

The purpose of The Act, which should be unambiguously reflected in its wording, is to create processes which ensure that the River has flows which maintain healthy ecologies throughout, in all kinds of seasons. Scientifically established river flows and allocations should not be compromised by politics.

It is clear and logical that a healthy environment is the best way to ensure the health of society and the economy.

Where over-allocation has led to loss of the ecologies, restorative measures are required. Assistance to communities should not come through modifying The Water Act. Assistance should come through other avenues.

Lastly, we point out that the current problems are the result of decades of unequal weighting of environmental needs against economic and social needs.

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