

Senate Water Act and Murray Darling Enquiry

Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees

Parliament House

Canberra ACT

17 03 2011

Dear Sir

Re: The Murray Darling Basin Plan and this enquiry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a view point on this subject.

I believe that the evidence provided by the "science" on this matter is seriously flawed. It takes no account of the history of water conservation and use and flood mitigation in this country and the enormous part played by damn such as the Hume Dam in this process, nor the reality of the cycle of drought and flood which is in dramatic evidence now. And in fact it was prepared in one the worst droughts in recent Australian history.

But of course scientists are only giving an opinion, and science is not infallible, although one would think they were, from the attitude of some climate "scientists" these days.

Successive Federal and State Governments have failed dismally to provide adequate water storage facilities in South East Australia and especially in and for the Murray Darling Basin, which is the food bowl of Australia.

For example the late and unlamented Premier of Victoria John Brumby refused many requests from people in the North East of Victoria to build the Big Buffalo Dam. Yet at the same time he built a pipeline to send country water to Melbourne, whilst he also failed provide pipelines instead of open canals to restrict evaporation in the irrigated parts of Victoria. He and the Green influenced Victorian ALP Government also commenced a Desalination plant at vast expense and of dubious value, and with serious green house gas emission possibilities.

The Gippsland river's offer opportunities for water storage, for Melbourne and for flood mitigation which have been neglected. This is just one example of the failure of public policy to provide adequate water storage facilities, and the same problem exists in the Murray Darling Basin, which is treated by "scientists" as having a finite water supply, which must not and can not be increased.

Obviously, no attempt has been made by so called "concerned scientists" to provide a practical solution to evaporation loss from the open canals which transport water through the irrigation areas or to provide for water conservation and flood mitigation.

Seventy years ago the late Dr Bradfield proposed a plan to provide water from the north of Queensland to supply the Murray Darling Basin with an additional water supply, and to help with flood mitigation in Queensland.

Nothing has been done to conserve this water which has flooded down from Queensland this year in abundance, with consequent flooding on a large scale.

This indicates the lack of foresight in Government and scientific circles and I believe that what is being served up in this proposal for the Murray Darling basin is typical of the narrow minded type of voodoo science which seems to be so prevalent nowadays.

They seem to have taken no account of the socio economic cost of this proposal, but of course they will still get **their salaries** and superannuation, whilst farmers, business people and towns in the Murray Darling Valley struggle to survive

.

Yours faithfully

Walter Morrison