

TO: Senate Enquiry into the Provisions of the Water Act 2007

I would like to make the following points in this submission:

The *Water Act 2007* gets the balance right and does not need to be amended.

. The *Water Act 2007* importantly recognises the need to return extraction to long-term sustainable levels and this must remain the focus.

. The *Water Act 2007* 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.

. The balance of water use in the Basin has been heavily weighted towards extraction for irrigation for too long, leading to highly stressed river systems. The *Water Act 2007* was introduced in order to address this imbalance and return water to the environment.

. The *Water Act 2007* 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, environmental and environmental considerations will rely on politics and not scientific understanding.

. Healthy rivers equal healthy communities.

. The only alternative to environmentally sustainable extraction levels is unsustainable extraction levels.

Yours sincerely,