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Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees  
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**The Water Act 2007 and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan**

I write in defence of the basic aims of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan – to return a productive and a biologically adequate level of water to this distressed ,complex waterway.

My entitlement to write is as a citizen, primarily a traveller and camper, but also spending time in Adelaide, the water supply of which and that of the lower Murray in general being inadequate for that states needs, persons, farmers, and environmentalists. Most recently I drove down the Murrumbidgee to Kangaroo Island, camping among other places in the Hattah Kulkynne Park, on the Murray overflow. The water level in the Murray and the state of the park, especially but not only the red gums, was parlous. A year or so ago I drove across the Darling at Wilcannia, a trickle as we drove west, no visible flow as we returned east. Some years earlier I travelled the Darling from the south to Tibbooburra, a dry and deprived river with bare banks and dying trees.

I realise that the Senate Committee is seeking an appropriate balance between farming social and environmental factors – hopefully not on shallow political grounds but on a scientific basis. I recognise that compromises will have to be made, and hope that a long term program can prove successful.

I have no specific measures to suggest nor information to pass on to the committee, my submission being for a worthy and science-based report.

Yours sincerely

A K Lethlean