

SUBMISSION TO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN

From: William Drysdale,

Date: 27th August 2015

INTRODUCTION

My property is located at the junction of Yea River with the Goulburn and also at the junction of the Island Creek with the Yea River. The property of 90 acres is almost entirely river flats or floodplain with very little elevated area on which to shift stock, meaning that prolonged flooding would necessitate agisting stock with the associated cost of transport.

I will be severely impacted by man-made manipulated flows created by releases from Eildon Weir "piggy-backed" on top of high tributary flows and would like to make the following points.

1. The proposal to send 30,000ML/day down the Goulburn past Ghin Ghin means that 90% of my property will be inundated from the resultant floodwaters backing up the Yea River and Island Creek. Repeated and more frequent, prolonged flooding will have a cumulative and devastating on my enterprise.
2. My silage production business will be destroyed if flooding occurs during the peak growing and production season from August to November. Depending on the season my income from the sale of silage - \$50,000 to \$77,000 annually would be lost.
3. I will also suffer significant loss of income from the agistment of cattle on my property. Stock cannot be returned to paddocks immediately after a flood recedes as the pasture needs rainfall to wash the sediment off and make it palatable. This would mean a loss of \$10 per head per week for a cow and calf unit which equates to \$300/week or \$1200/month
4. I understand that the MDBA are supposed to undertake a detailed property assessment of impacts to landowners. I have not had any representative from the MDBA visit me or my property.
5. The Victorian Government should be protecting its communities and citizens from floods, not deliberately creating large floods that destroy their businesses.
I do not want to have an easement placed over my property. An easement does not alleviate or reduce the severity of flooding on my farm, therefore it is not mitigation.
6. An easement over my farm would reduce its value and sale potential
7. The Government agencies, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority and Goulburn Murray Water do not have the right to intentionally flood my private property. The Victorian Water Act explicitly states that deliberate inundation of private property cannot occur without the consent of the landowner.
8. If floodwaters inundate the pasture for longer than 5 days then the grass dies, incurring substantial pasture renovation costs. As the frequency of floods will now be up to 6 years out of

10, my property will constantly need to be re-sown to improved pasture and any compensation would have to reflect this.

9. Compensation values as stated in the Goulburn Cost Estimate of Easements is extremely minimal and does not reflect the true real estate value of this prime agricultural river flat country.

CONCLUSION

As my property is at the confluence of the Yea River with the Goulburn River there will be extensive backing up of floodwaters on to my river flats which will be exacerbated by flows from the Island Creek, which flows right through the middle of my farm.

No government or government agencies should have the right to deliberately damage my property with intentional flooding and decimate my annual farm income.

Yours Sincerely,

William Drysdale