

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing References Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT Australia

17th December 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

The following is our submission concerning a future strategy with regard to water allocations within the Murray Darling Basin. We ask that the submission not be published but that data be utilised in the context of assessing the impacts of socio-economics on the Basin communities and especially on second and third generation farmers that have invested their life and resources in making rural Australia effective and efficient.

It is our understanding that the two dams, Burrinjuck and Blowering were designed and built for 'food production' in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Over the years, we have watched and wondered why oh why the governments of the day allowed this precious resource to be sent down the Murrumbidgee River to firstly, Hay and then Balranald to allow greedy large area property owners/managers to extract large amounts of water. Extremely large 'turkey nest' dams were built on these properties and pumps ran day and night extracting water from the Murrumbidgee River. These dams should never have been approved. Water has been an issue and concern in Australia since settlement.

We consider this a government mismanagement of our precious water resource and now we, the small irrigation farmers of the MIA are being targeted again with the aim of devastating the farming communities and their respective rural communities. NO further cuts please!

Farming communities want nothing more than to be allowed to carry out their business of producing food - we also want healthy rivers BUT a balance between the farming communities and the environment has to be just that - BALANCED.

Our small holding backs onto the Fivebough Wetlands and due to mismanagement of the wetlands this year, a portion of our private land has been flooded by the 1000 megalitres of water allocation for the wetlands with little or no regard for our farming program for 2010/11 and rendering this section of the property useless for cropping or grazing. Does this sound 'reasonable and fair?' ... I think not.

If I can contribute further please advise at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

Don and Shirley Ciavarella