

Mrs Julie Andreatza

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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: rat.sen@aph.gov.au

As I sit at my computer to compose my submission to the MDBA regarding the Murray Darling Basin Plan, I watch in grief as yet another shower of rain arrives to further hinder what would have been the best wheat harvest we have had in years. As my husband and son work feverishly to strip the last remaining wheat, racing against the rain I cannot fathom the absolute stupidity of this whole debacle you call a 'Plan'.

While you people sit in your ivory towers at the top of the hill in Canberra, real Australians with a real passion to work and provide a future for our nation are forced to fight for our right to continue producing food.

At the most busy time of year (our 1st wheat harvest in years, 2 weeks before Christmas, fighting against the inclement weather - flood - after a 10 year drought) we are forced to submit our letters by today, when the MDBA have had 3 YEARS! To produce this waste of paper called a "Guide to a proposed plan". If we farmers ran our businesses the way this committee has wasted tax payers dollars on this, we all would have been broke years ago.

My husband and I have been farming together for 22 years and we are 3rd generation farmers. We have 4 children, one of whom was thinking of joining us in the business at the end of year 12 in 2011 to become our 4th generation in the family business, but his future is now uncertain. Does my son's future farm employment prospect count as one of your ridiculous 800 job losses, discussed in this plan? I am not educated nor am I a scientist, but the people or person responsible for calculating this figure should be sacked immediately for ignorance and stupidity.

In Griffith already the feeling is very negative; confidence is low as is proven by the increase in advertising for house sales and the drop in the real estate market and business expansion.

Quite simply I am not going to rehash or even try and research figures to give a counter argument for this ridiculous plan. It was enough for me to turn to page 170 and see a photo of "Rice in the Riverina, Victoria"! Did these morons go to university to study Geography? The MDBA are incapable of labeling a picture correctly, without even bothering to try and get any actual numbers or percentages correct. Like the figure of 43% which will absolutely annihilate Griffith and surrounding towns!!!!

I took my whole family to the MDBP meeting that was held in Griffith on 14th October. We were seated front and centre, because of how important this issue is for our whole community. The MDBA have no idea what impact they have had on my family and our town, let alone the rest of Australia. On the day of the meeting one of the MDBA female committee people spoke to my youngest child who was dressed in full school uniform and said "shouldn't you be in school?" as if this was just some outing I had decided to take my children on to get them out of school? Clearly and sharply I replied, "No, they should be right here, saving our town!!"

She walked away shocked!

How is it even conceivable for this group of Beaucrates to think it is O.K to come into my family's home town and think they have the right to take away everything from my family and community?

I will give the MDBA a call the day I turn up with my committee in Canberra to let them know why it is O.k for me to take 43% of their total income and whole life's work, and that of their parents and grandparents, and then I'll ask them to write me a letter explaining why I have no right destroying their life!???

My message is simple

Scrap the Plan! And work on a balanced plan so that we can continue to produce food to feed ourselves and fellow Australians.

Sincerely

Julie Andrezza