

19th February 2011

Dear Members of Parliament,

The Water Act 2007 must be rewritten in order to give equal weighting to social, economic and environmental concerns relating to the Murray Darling Basin. Currently, the environment is given primacy according to the Act, and too much emphasis is placed upon international agreements and treaties.

The eastern region of Australia is currently experiencing the effects of a La Nina weather pattern, following the drier El Nino system that preceded it. Any plan that relates to water allocations from the Basin should be flexible enough to accommodate such different weather cycles.

The river systems in Australia are currently being replenished and wetlands are being regenerated as a result of the high rainfall over the past six months. It would be imprudent for any MDB plan to ignore the resilience of the river system and the cyclical nature of the climate. Mother nature generally has far more influence over the environment than any human activity, despite what many people would like to believe and proclaim. It is said that "if you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Likewise, if a plan is misconceived, then failure will usually result. The current Water Act is an example of a plan that is misconceived, and therefore likely to fail in achieving better outcomes for the Murray Darling Basin and the people who live within it.

Regards,  
Paul McCormack