

Committee Secretary,  
Senate Legal & Constitutional Committees  
Parliament House

### Provisions of the Commonwealth Water Act 2007

The Water Act 2007 recognises the need for the establishment of a healthy water system for the Murray-Darling Basin. This means reducing water extraction in order to provide a minimal healthy environmental flow.

For too long there has been excessive permits to extract water, mostly for irrigation purposes. This has led to a stressed river unable to cope with basic environmental needs such as wetlands, waterbirds, native fish and the River Red Gum wetland forests.

The current Plan, under the Water Act 2007, recognised the need for a healthy river by determining a minimal water flow for restoration of a healthy river. Decreasing this minimal flow simply alters the balance towards more extraction and more stress to the river system.

Thank you for considering this submission

Yours sincerely