

Committee Secretary,

This letter is in regards to Changes being considered in amending the Water Act 2007. It is my opinion that any "watering down" of this Act is unnecessary and detrimental to the health of our natural water systems. The Act, as it stands, correctly addresses and gives due consideration to all sides of the issue.

For years too much water has been being extracted by irrigators and it is essential for long term SUSTAINABLE levels of extraction. To be extracting water as we have been doing in the past for use in completely inefficient delivery systems like flood and sprinkler systems is totally unacceptable. We must continue to focus on reducing and in fact eliminating the amount of water that is wasted by using such archaic and short-sighted methods. This appears to me to be such a no-brainer that I can't believe that we continue to allow some producers to waste such a precious resource.

We must continue to reduce wasteful water extraction so that eco-systems and communities and water conscious, responsible growers that return substantial levels of money to the local communities where they are located, can get the water they need even when there has been a drought. The droughts WILL return and we must rid ourselves of might I say immorally wasteful water abusers. For years these abusers have had free reign to do what they want and the first to cry poor when all the water is gone in a drought, and the near death of the Murray-Darling should never again be allowed to return to the levels that we have just witnessed.

To continue as we have in the past to succumb to politically motivated book burnings, corporate lobbying and smear campaigns in the face of overwhelming scientific advice and opinion is to kill our river systems and everything that depends on them. A different balance of social, environmental, and economical considerations will, without doubt, have disastrous results.

Healthy communities require healthy rivers and to "muddy the waters" by obfuscating the existing Water Act will do no good whatever.

We must continue push for a Bill that empowers the sensible use of a precious resource, and punishes wasteful, selfish, profit driven and short-sighted irrigators who continue to try and pressure our politicians to give them the free reign that they need to continue to destroy a rare and precious resource.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,

Rob Kane