

Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

I would like to support the retention of the *Water Act 2007* as it stands because it balances the needs of the environment and the communities that depend upon it in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB).

After decades of over-allocation and over-extraction of water resources, the wetlands and river systems of the MDB are suffering and the *Water Act 2007* helps to restore the 90% of the floodplain wetlands of the MDB and 80% of the waterbird populations that used to live there. The loss of 80% of the River Red Gum wetland forests need to be restored as do the native fish populations.

The *Water Act 2007* nicely addresses the imbalances of extraction for irrigation, communities and the retention of water to support the ecosystems.

I therefore urge the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees to rely on the correct acknowledgements of the *Water Act 2007* that based its wise decision about sustainable water extraction levels on the best available science and not on political expediency.

Yours sincerely,

L. K. Wray.