



Submission:

The proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan has serious ramifications on regional and local communities.

- Local communities will be fractured as a result of taking water
  - Jobs will be lost
  - Families will leave the districts
  - Schools will have less enrolments and in some instances schools will close
  - Local business will suffer through lack of income and some will close

These factors will have a serious impact on what has been vibrant communities which in turn effects social and economic growth in small towns and therefore sporting facilities, hospitals and other community services will be downgraded and eventually unavailable to small communities.

- Irrigators with small licences cannot afford to have reduced allocations as they would be unviable – to date these farmers have worked hard and put in place many water-saving measures to run an environmentally friendly and profitable business which will be basically cast aside with no consideration.
- Many large farming enterprises have invested large amounts of money to improve infrastructure for maximum return from minimum water usage for long term profitability – this done in consultation with environmentalist and other advisors. If too much water is taken all these measures have been of no value.
- Australian farmers grow clean, green food compared to many parts of the world and our country is being sold out to overseas investments – overseas imports may be cheap now but in the future the price will escalate and we already know a lot of overseas produce is not clean and green.
- Is climate change real? - the environment definitely needs water but scientists forget we have been through 10 years of drought – in other droughts the rivers have dried up – since it has rained during 2010 we have seen the return of many species of wildlife and trees regenerating – it is nature's way and these things go in cycles – why do we need water buy back – already things are changing with more rainfall during 2010.

The long term effect of this plan will see Australian farmers sold out to overseas investments as financially they will not be able to compete and will have to sell up – it has taken many years for farming to get to the stage it is at today and it now looks like bureaucracy is going to take it all away. Let the proposers of this plan be assured landowners are the most environmentally friendly people of Australia as they have owned the land since Australia was settled and have looked after the land as they want to make a living from that land.

Gordon & Barbara Fox  
Landholders

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