



Dear Sir,

I have never written to a politician before but I consider this issue to be so serious I am left with no choice but to write.

Our grandfather who worked on the railways in London, England came to Australia in 1914 and disembarked at Melbourne Port.

He didn't have a job lined up and a Mr Matthews from Finley was there looking for a labourer for his windmill business.

He quickly accepted the position so that he could get a start in Australia, I remember him telling me he worked incredibly long hours, seven days a week for many years so that he could get established.

He worked and also obtained a mechanical qualification by the early 1920's, he applied for and was accepted as a General Motors dealer in 1929.

My father used to tell us that the depression years in early 1930 nearly wiped our grandfathers business out financially, it was that tough.

He went on to survive the depression and the second world war.

The Mulwala canal bought irrigation water to Finley for the first time during the second world war.

Our families business and Finley had not prospered until irrigation came to the area.

Finley is a low rainfall area, from the introduction of irrigation until about the year 2000 but for the odd drought year Finley and district prospered financially.

Since 2001 for the next nine years with drought and low irrigation water allocations most businesses have just hung on by their fingernails, we have stuck at it each year with the hope that the next year things would turn around.

We wouldn't be able to sell the business as there wouldn't be any buyers.

If the government was to introduce the water cut backs that you propose it would put places like Finley in constant drought mode, just not enough water to make our business viable.

As a business owner I could not see any point in continuing to operate, it would be just too hard financially and all our workers would lose their jobs.

There would be 800 jobs lost in Finley let alone the whole Murray Darling Basin.

With all the boat people you are letting come into the country you should be encouraging country areas like ours which are generally very friendly and welcoming to new people who want to live with us.

I believe long term you are making a massive mistake with all the water buy backs and cuts to irrigation allocations, with world food shortages, over crowding in the cities, history will judge you to have done the wrong thing with these cutbacks.

For the people who live out here we don't have the beach or harbour to look at, there isn't a cinema, we have very average schools and hospital facilities you should be rewarding us for putting up with this, not trying to make it harder through water cutbacks.

Make no mistake each reduction you make in water costs someone a job, it is that simple.

I think one of the biggest mistakes all you politicians are making is that you are underestimating the "influence" of the Griffith area in all of this, they won't sit back and see big cuts to everyone's water, their "influence" over the fruit and vegetable markets in the capital cities will I believe and from what I'm hearing will eventually become a major problem for those living in the cities if you keep persisting with the water cutbacks.

I hope I have helped bring a clearer picture of what life is really like out here and the importance of irrigation water to our short and long term survival.

No water equals no food, no income.

Every water cutback makes it just harder to survive.

I would welcome you to bring your family out here and live for twelve months or longer and see what the real world is like.

Yours Faithfully,

Gregory Ryan