

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

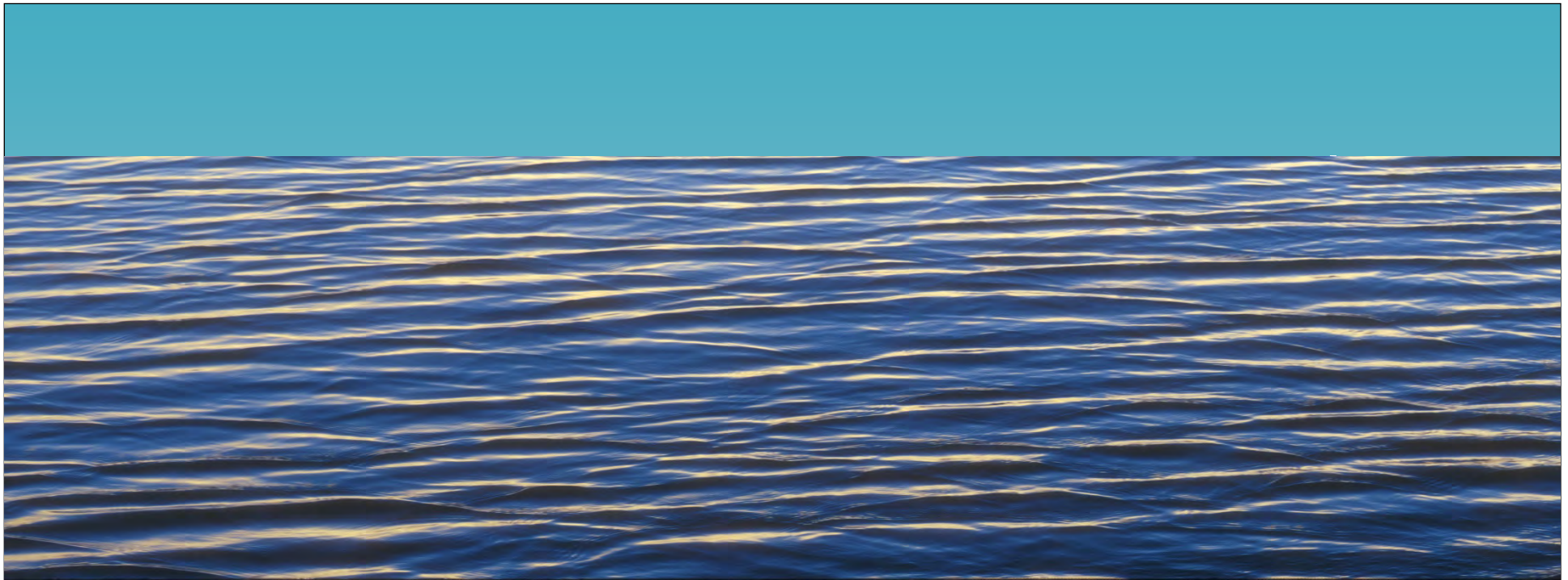
Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Question on Notice 40

Appendix 1



Delivering the Basin Plan

Economic and social profiles and impact assessment in the
Murray Darling Basin

Business phone survey instrument

19 March 2010

Marsden Jacob Associates

Financial & Economic Consultants

ABN 66 663 324 657

ACN 072 233 204

Internet: <http://www.marsdenjacob.com.au>

E-mail: economists@marsdenjacob.com.au

Perth office:

Level 6, 731 Hay St, Perth (Gledden Building), Western Australia, 6000 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 8 9324 1785

Melbourne office:

Postal address: Level 3, 683 Burke Road, Camberwell

Victoria 3124 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 3 9882 1600

Brisbane office:

Level 5, 100 Eagle St, Brisbane

Queensland, 4000 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 7 3229 7701

Contact:

Dr Jeremy Cheesman jeremy.cheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

(Melbourne Office or 0414 765 739)

This report has been prepared in accordance with the scope of services described in the contract or agreement between Marsden Jacob Associates Pty Ltd ACN 072 233 204 (MJA) and the Client. Any findings, conclusions or recommendations only apply to the aforementioned circumstances and no greater reliance should be assumed or drawn by the Client. Furthermore, the report has been prepared solely for use by the Client and Marsden Jacob Associates accepts no responsibility for its use by other parties.



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Socio-economic profiling of Murray-Darling Basin communities

Status	Working draft as at 13 March, 2010
For questions contact	Dr Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates: PH:03 9882 1600 MOB: 0414 765 739 EMAIL: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is [NAME OF INTERVIEWER] and I am calling to talk to you about farming issues in your region as part of a survey being conducted for the Murray Darling Basin Authority

IF HAVE NAME FROM SAMPLE (IE YP SAMPLE): May I please speak with [NAME ON SAMPLE].

IF NOT HAVE NAME FROM SAMPLE (IE RDD SAMPLE) & ASSIGNED TO BUSINESS SURVEY (IE RDD SAMPLE): Identify if respondent and/or others in household manages or owns a business. If necessary, May I please speak with the business manager / owner? [INCLUDE INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS HERE] SKIP REPEATED PART OF BACKGROUND BELOW.

RE-INTRODUCE YOURSELF OR THE STUDY, IF NECESSARY.

Continue 1
Make appointment 2
Refused - RECORD AS FIRST LEVEL REFUSAL 3

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the MDBA, is in the process of developing a draft Basin Plan which is due for release in the middle of this year.

In developing the basin plan, the MDBA is seeking to gain a better understanding of communities within the Basin.

The objectives of the survey are to better understand the people who are living and working in the region, and the issues that you currently face. We are calling today to ask you to participate in this survey.

INCLUDE FINAL SCREENER QUESTION ABOUT HERE:

Would you say that your business is dependant on agriculture....

1. A lot (50 percent or greater of annual income comes from agriculture business)
2. A little (10-50 percent of annual income comes from agriculture business), or
3. Not at all? (<10 percent of annual income comes from agriculture business) [TERMINATE]

The survey will take around 15 minutes to complete and involves questions about you, your business, and your management of the business.

The survey is being administered by DBM Consultants, a professional research company, on behalf of the Authority and all information you provide will be held strictly confidential, in accordance with the Code of Professional Behaviour set out by the Market Research Society of Australia and the Privacy legislation. If you have any questions we can take your name and number, and ask our project manager, Steve Luxa, to call you back or, you can contact him on our Toll free number 1800 063 989 and quote Q299.

Do you have 15 minutes to answer our survey?

Part 1: Business profile

In this survey we will be asking you a series of questions about 'your business'. By 'your business' we mean all of the businesses you presently own, manage, or operate.

We would like to start by asking you some questions about your business and your region.

Section	Content block	Question	Response categories
1	Farm/business context	Of the following, which best describes your business? (More than one response is OK)	Business directly providing goods or services to agriculture including for example feed, fertiliser and equipment Business directly using the products from agriculture (such as food processing, warehousing, transport); Other
		What is the main activity of your business? [DO NOT READ OUT - SINGLE RESPONSE]	<u>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing</u> Mining Manufacturing Electricity, Gas, Water and Water services Construction Wholesale Trade Retail Trade Accommodation and Food services Transport Postal Warehousing Information, Media and Telecommunications Financial and Insurance Services Rental, Hiring and Real Estate services Professional, Scientific and Technical services Administrative and Support services Public Administration and Safety Education and Training Health care and Social assistance Arts and Recreational services Other services
		Would you say that your business is dependant on agriculture?	1. A lot (more than 50 percent of business income) 2. A little [10-50 percent of business income]

	3. Not at all (<10 percent of business income)
[If code “a lot” or “a little”] Which of the following agricultural areas best describes the main focus of your business? [READ OUT. SINGLE RESPONSE. PROBE IF NECESSARY]	Sheep & Beef Cropping (grains, fruit, vegetables, cotton, etc) Mixed Food & Livestock Dairy/Poultry/Other Livestock Agri Services Logging & Forestry Aquaculture Other – Specify
Is your business a family business	Yes / No
Including earlier generations, approximately how long has your family been living in the local region	Years
For approximately how many years have you been working in this business?	Years [DP: INSTRUCTIONS FOR HALF YEARS ETC]
In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues <u>facing some regions, and for each issue, I’d like you to tell me how much you think it is a concern for your region.</u> Please rate each issue from 1, being not a concern at all, to 5, being a major concern.	People leaving the region Changing composition of people in the region Access to education services Access to essential services (such as health) General economic decline in the region Lower levels of participation in community activities Higher levels of stress Access to public transport options Unemployment Underemployment (i.e. people wanting to work more than they are) The state of the natural environment in your region
In the next set of questions I will read out a list of items that may have been issues <u>for you</u> in managing your business over the last few years. For each item, can you please rate them from 1, being not a concern at all, to 5, being a major concern	Retail prices Input costs including the cost of goods and services Interest rates Cash flow Business debt levels Labour availability and cost Water Drought Time available to be involved in community activities Time available to be with friends and family Time available for yourself (playing sport etc)

			Time available for leisure and holidays

I'd now like to ask you some more questions about your business.

Part 2: Changes in the past five years

Based on your postcode and information from the Bureau of Meteorology, the overall regional water availability has been lower than the long-term average for your region and also other businesses that are dependent on agriculture; the rainfall in your region over the last 5 years has been LOOKUP "phrase" than] the long-term average rainfall for your region and also other businesses that are dependent on agriculture. Also the overall temperature has been LOOKUP "phrase" than/compared to the long-term average temperature for your region.

Can you tell me whether over the past five years you have changed your business operations, in particular in response to changed rainfall patterns, the overall water availability and the temperature?

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following best describes the changes in your operations? (Multiple Response)

USE CODEFRAME BELOW

CODEFRAME FOR CHANGES TO BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Response categories
1. Change in the range of products
2. Change in operating costs (e.g. stock holdings)
3. Change in amount of services that are seen as essential or 'drought proof'
4. Change in the scale of activities
5. Change in the core business focus
6. Create niche market (e.g. precision irrigation technology)
7. Install water tanks for business water (e.g for cleaning machinery and equipment)
8. Other (specify)

[IF 1 or 2 or 3 or 4] You said you changed [if code 1 "the range of products"] [if code 2 "operating costs"] [if code 3 "amount of services that are seen as essential or 'drought proof'] [if code 4 "the scale of activities] over the past five years. What were the main things you did?

Recode verbatim. If necessary one or two sentences.

Part 3: Changes in the future

Now that I understand what you have done in the past, we would like to discuss what you may do in the future in response to different scenarios for regional rainfall and regional water availability.

We want to stress that the future rainfall and water availability scenarios that we are going to discuss are imaginary.

Scenario 1

First, I'd like you to imagine that the amount of rainfall and water availability in the future looking forward would be about the same as in the last five years.. Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your business operations as a result?

Yes

No

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following best describes the changes in your operations? (Multiple Response)

USE CODEFRAME BELOW

CODEFRAME FOR CHANGES TO BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Response categories

1. Change in the range of products
 2. Change in operating costs (e.g. stock holdings)
 3. Change in amount of services that are seen as essential or 'drought proof'
 4. Change in the scale of activities
 5. Change in the core business focus
 6. Create niche market (e.g. precision irrigation technology)
 7. Install water tanks for business water (e.g for cleaning machinery and equipment)
 8. Other (specify)
-

[IF 1 or 2 or 3 or 4]

You said you would change [if code 1 "the range of products"] [if code 2 "operating costs"] [if code 3 "amount of services that are seen as essential or 'drought proof'] [if code 4 "the scale of activities] . What would be the main things you would do under this scenario?

-----DP note: record al the verbatim

Scenario 2

I'd now like you to imagine that rainfall patterns and the overall water availability would return to the long-term average in the future looking forward. Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your business operations as a result?

Yes

No

[IF YES] In which one or more of the following best describes the changes in your operations? (Multiple Response)

USE CODEFRAME and the open ended question ABOVE

Scenario 3 [DO NOT ASK IF 35%<XX%<45%]

Finally, I'd now like you to imagine that rainfall and the overall water availability in the future is 40 % less than the long-term average for your region. . Under the assumption of rainfall over the next 5 years being 40% less than the long-term average, do you think you would make any changes to your business operations as a result?

Yes

No

[IF YES] In which one or more of the following best describes the changes in your operations? (Multiple Response) USE CODEFRAME and the open ended question ABOVE

Part 4: Background information

Now we would like to ask you some information about your business' financial situation. In discussing your financial situation we are only looking to get rough estimates. If you don't want to answer any of these questions please tell us and we will skip to the next one. However, the more information we can gather, the better will be the MDBAs understanding of the financial situation facing businesses in your region, so we encourage you to contribute.

4	Business financial	Is your business	Mortgaged/ Owned / or leased
		On average for each year over the past five years what has been your average business revenue? (i.e. the money you received for selling goods)	RANGE TBA
		Roughly what have been your average annual business costs over the past 5 years? Include all costs of running the business, but exclude depreciation, and changes in stock.	RANGE TBA
		Roughly, what was the estimated before tax profit for your business over the past 5 years (Calculate profit as business income, less cash costs, less depreciation)?	RANGE TBA
		Including yourself, on average over the past five years, approximately how many full time employees does your business have each year?	Open
		On average over the past five years how many part time has your business had	Open

	each year?	
	On average over the past five years how many seasonal employees has business had each year?	
	On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your average income from the business over the past five years with 1 being 'Definitely not enough to keep the business viable' and 5 being 'More than enough to keep the business viable'	5 point scale
	If you sold your business today roughly how much do you think you could get for it (including stock, capital, land)	Open
	Roughly how much business debt do you have?	Open
	Roughly what has been your average off-business annual household cash income over the past 5 years?	Open in \$
	Roughly, how much support have you received on average through the Exceptional Circumstances scheme during the past five years (e.g. relief payment or interest rate subsidy or Centrelink payments)	Open

Now we would like to ask you some questions about your health, and your sense of belonging in your regional community. Please indicate if you do not feel comfortable answering any of these questions as we go along, and we can skip to the next one. Again, the more information we have about your health and wellbeing, the better MDBA will understand your personal situation and the strength of social networks in your regional community.

	On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree, how do you rate the following:	
	Most people you meet keep their word	5 point scale
	When I feel lonely, there are several people I could talk to	5 point scale
	Generally I feel optimistic about my future in the region	5 point scale
	For the next eight questions, I am going to read you a list of questions we would like you to score yourself with a number within a 5 point range. A score of 5 means completely satisfied, whereas at the other end of the range a score of 1 means completely dissatisfied. (NB: After a bit the interviewer may drop the stem "how satisfied are you" and just ask '... with ...')	
	How satisfied are you with your standard of living?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with your health?	5 point scale

		How satisfied are you with what you are achieving in life?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with feeling part of your community?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your future security?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your spirituality or religion?	5 point scale
8	Assistance	The next series five questions deal with your future and any assistance your business might need. We would like you to rate these questions on a scale of 1 to 5. A rating of 1 means the assistance with be of little use to you, a rating of 5 means the assistance would be of a great deal of use to you.	
		Provide direct financial assistance to manage current problems (e.g. EC for drought)	5 point scale
		Provide me with direct financial assistance to enable me to invest in the long term viability of the business	5 point scale
		Provide me with direct financial assistance to enable me to leave the business	5 point scale
		Provide me with training and support to increase the viability of my business	5 point scale
		Provide me with training and support to change occupations	5 point scale
9	Background information	Gender	Male / female (enumerator can self code)
		In what year were you born	Years
		Are you married, de facto, separated, widowed, or single	married, de facto, separated, divorced, widowed, single
		How many dependents do you have (children in full time education and adults over the age of 60)	Dependents on fulltime education or under 5 year old + Adults (aging parent)
		What is your highest level of education	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University
		[IF MARRIED, DEFACTO] What is the highest level of education of your partner	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University
		What is the postcode of your place of residence	Postcode
		What is the postcode of your business	Postcode

Closing and contacts

That is the end of our survey. Thank you for your time. Your contribution will assist the MDBA understand your region better and help in developing the Basin Plan.

If you have further questions or comments, I can provide you with contact numbers. If Yes, So I can give you the best number to call, would you like to discuss...

Questions about ...	Contact ...	Contact number
... the Basin Plan	The Murray Darling Basin Authority	1800 230 067 or visit www.mdba.gov.au .
... this survey	Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates	P: 03 9882 1600 M: 0414 765 739 E: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au
... assistance with financial and personal circumstances	Centrelink Drought Assistance line on 13 2316 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns; giving you information about, or referring you to, other services in the community such as health, legal services, support groups, emergency financial assistance and counselling; providing information about drought assistance payments and other payments and services available from Centrelink) Lifeline 24 hour counselling service, 13 1114 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns) NSW Health Drought Stress and Counselling Line 1800 201 123 Qld Farm Financial Counselling Service 13 25 23 SA Drought Assistance Hotline 13 23 16 Victorian Rural Financial Counselling Service 13 61 86	

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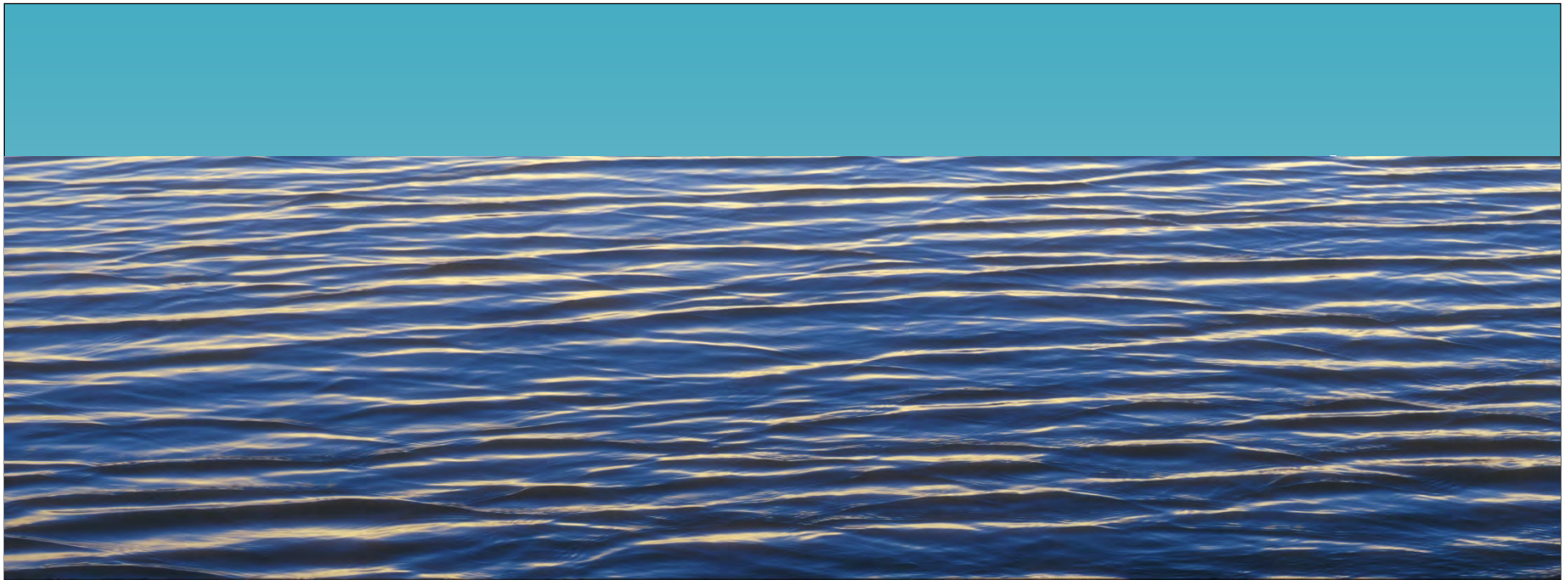
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Appendix 2



Delivering the Basin Plan

Economic and social profiles and impact assessment in the
Murray Darling Basin

Community phone survey instrument

19 March 2010

Marsden Jacob Associates

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Queensland, 4000 AUSTRALIA

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Dr Jeremy Cheesman jeremy.cheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

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Socio-economic profiling of Murray-Darling Basin communities

Status	Final as at 16 March, 2010
For questions contact	Dr Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates: PH:03 9882 1600 MOB: 0414 765 739 EMAIL: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is [NAME OF INTERVIEWER] and I am calling to talk to you about issues in your region as part of a survey being conducted for the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the MDBA, is in the process of developing a draft Basin Plan which is due for release in the middle of this year.

In developing the basin plan, the MDBA is seeking to gain a better understanding of communities within the Basin.

This survey will help the MDBA to achieve a better understanding by providing a wide range of information about the people who are living and working in the region, and the issues that you currently face. We are calling today to ask you to participate in this survey. The survey will take around 15 minutes to complete and involves questions about your household and the community in general.

The survey is being administered by DBM Consultants, a professional research company, on behalf of the Authority and all information you provide will be held strictly confidential. [IF NECESSARY, SAY , The research is being conducted in accordance with the Code of Professional Behaviour set out by the Market Research Society of Australia and the Privacy legislation. If you have any questions we can take your name and number, and ask our project manager, Steve Luxa, to call you back or, you can contact him on our Toll free number 1800 063 989 and quote Q299].

INCLUDE SCREENER HERE WITH RULES FOR ASSIGNING RESPONDENT TO SURVEY TYPE

Do you have 15 minutes to answer our survey? (WAIT) If, for some reason, you wish to discontinue the survey, please let us know. ADD THIS TO ALL OTHER SURVEYS

Part 1: Household profile

In this survey we will be asking you a series of questions about your household and your region.

Section	Content block	Question	Response categories
1		What is the postcode of your place of residence	Postcode
		For approximately how many years have you been living in the local region? [Interviewers: By local region we mean the area within approx 50Kms of where they live.]	Years
		Including earlier generations, approximately how long has your family been living in the local region	Years
		In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues <u>facing some regions</u> , and for each issue, I'd like you to tell me how much you think it is a concern for <u>your region</u> . Please rate each issue from 1, being not a concern at all, to 5, being a major concern.	People leaving the region Drought Changing composition of people in the region Access to education services Access to essential services such as health REMIND RESPONDENTS OF SCALE Economic prosperity of the region Levels of participation in community activities Levels of stress in the community Access to public transport options REMIND RESPONDENTS OF SCALE AT THIS POINT Unemployment Underemployment (i.e. people wanting to work more than they are) The state of the natural environment in your region The viability of irrigated agriculture in the region The viability of non-irrigated agriculture in the region
		In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues <u>for you and your household</u> , and for each issue, I'd like you to use the same scale to tell me how much of a concern the issue is for you. Recall that a rating of 1 means 'not a concern at all', and a 5, means 'a major concern'.	Interest rates Household income Household debt levels Drought Time available to be involved in community activities Time available to be with friends and family Time available for yourself (playing sport etc) Time available for leisure and holidays

Part 2: Changes in the future

You are probably aware that the Murray Darling Basin is Australia's most significant agricultural area, producing over one-third of Australia's food supply. It also has many natural resources that are of high environmental significance, including wetlands, Red River gums and Murray cod.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan that is currently being developed will allocate more water to protect the environment than in the past. This will mean less water available for agriculture, although the amount of this reduction is yet to be decided.

If you had to choose between the following options, which would you choose:

1. Allocate substantially more water to the environment, with this water being taken from agriculture
2. Allocate slightly more water to the environment, with this water being taken from agriculture
3. Same allocations between agriculture and the environment as current
4. Allocate slightly more water to agriculture, with this water being taken from the environment
5. Allocate substantially more water to agriculture, with this water being taken from the environment
6. environment

On a scale of 1 to 5, with one being not important at all and 5 being extremely important, how important is agriculture to your regional economy?

And on the same scale, how important is irrigated agriculture to your regional economy?

Part 3: Background information

Now we would like to ask you some information about your household's financial situation. In discussing your financial situation we are only looking to get rough estimates. If you don't want to answer any of these questions please tell us and we will skip to the next one. However, the more information we can gather, the better will be the MDBAs understanding of the financial situation facing your community.

4	Household financial	Is your home	Mortgaged/ Owned / or Rented
		Roughly what has been your average annual household income over the past 5 years?	RANGE TBA
		Would you say that your average household income over the past five years was	Definitely not enough to meet household needs Not quite enough to meet household needs Enough to meet household needs More than enough to meet household needs Substantially more than enough to meet household needs
		Roughly how much household debt do you have?	RANGE TBA
		Roughly, how much support have you received on average during the past five years ((e.g. relief payment or interest rate subsidy or Centre link payments)	\$ Open

Now we would like to ask you some questions about your health, and your sense of belonging in your regional community. Please indicate if you do not feel comfortable answering any of these questions as we go along, and we can skip to the next one. Again, the more information we have about your health and wellbeing, the better MDBA will understand your personal situation and the strength of social networks in your regional community.

		For the next six questions can you please answer on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Strongly disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree	
		Most people you meet keep their word	5 point scale
		When I feel lonely, there are several people I could talk to	5 point scale
		Generally I feel optimistic about my future in the region	5 point scale
		For the next eight questions, I am going to read you a list of questions we would like you to score yourself with a number within a 5 point range. A score of 5 means completely satisfied, whereas at the other end of the range a score of 1 means completely dissatisfied. (NB: After a bit the interviewer may drop the stem "how satisfied are you' and just ask '... with ...")	
		How satisfied are you with your standard of living?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your health?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with what you are achieving in life?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?	5 point scale

9	Background information	How satisfied are you with feeling part of your community?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your future security?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your spirituality or religion?	5 point scale
		Gender	Male / female (enumerator can self code)
		In what year were you born	Years
		Are you married, de facto, separated, widowed, or single	married, de facto, separated, divorced, widowed, single
		How many dependents do you have (children in full time education and adults over the age of 60)	Dependents on fulltime education or under 5 year old + Adults (aging parent)
		What is your highest level of education	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University
		Which of the following best describes your current employment status? [READ OUT - SINGLE RESPONSE]	Employed as an employee (full or part time) Owner (employer or own account worker) Contributing to a family business without drawing a wage but gain indirect benefits Retired (permanently or 'for now') Undertaking full time study/ preparing to commence study Suffering a long-term illness or disability Acting as a carer (for someone with an illness/ disability, aged person, children) Home duties Unemployed (seeking work/ prepared to commence work in the short term)
		[ask if employed/ owner/ contributing to a family business] What is your occupation/title? Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)	Managers Professionals Technicians and Trades Workers Community and Personal Service Workers Clerical and Administrative Workers Sales Workers Machinery Operators and Drivers Labourers Not applicable (refers to unemployed or those not in the labour force)
		In which sector are you working in? [Do not READ OUT - SINGLE RESPONSE]	[Ref: ANZSIC2006] Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Mining Manufacturing Electricity, Gas, Water and Water services

	Construction Wholesale Trade Retail Trade Accommodation and Food services Transport Postal Warehousing Information, Media and Telecommunications Financial and Insurance Services Rental, Hiring and Real Estate services Professional, Scientific and Technical services Administrative and Support services Public Administration and Safety Education and Training Health care and Social assistance Arts and Recreational services Other services
[IF MARRIED, DEFACTO] What is the highest level of education of your partner	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University

Closing and contacts

That is the end of our survey. Thank you for your time. Your contribution will assist the MDBA understand your region better and help in developing the Basin Plan.

If you have further questions or comments, I can provide you with contact numbers. If Yes, so I can give you the best number to call, would you like to discuss...

Questions about ...	Contact ...	Contact number
... the Basin Plan	The Murray Darling Basin Authority	1800 230 067 or visit www.mdba.gov.au .
... this survey	Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates	P: 03 9882 1600 M: 0414 765 739 E: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au
... assistance with financial and personal wellbeing	Centrelink Drought Assistance line on 13 2316 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns; giving you information about, or referring you to, other services in the community such as health, legal services, support groups, emergency financial assistance and counselling; providing information about drought assistance payments and other payments and services available from Centrelink) Lifeline 24 hour counselling service, 13 1114 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns) NSW Health Drought Stress and Counselling Line 1800 201 123 Qld Farm Financial Counselling Service 13 25 23 SA Drought Assistance Hotline 13 23 16 Victorian Rural Financial Counselling Service 13 61 86	

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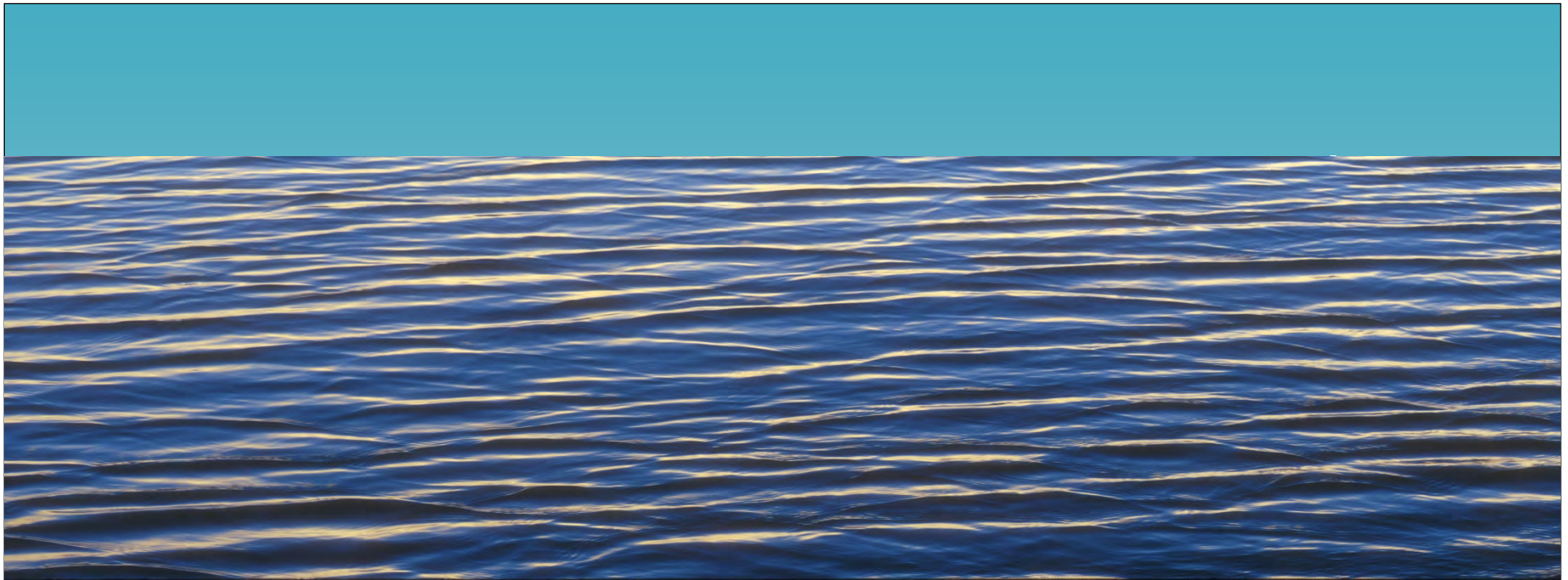
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Murray Darling Basin

Dryland phone survey instrument

19 March 2010

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ABN 66 663 324 657

ACN 072 233 204

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E-mail: economists@marsdenjacob.com.au

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Telephone: +61 (0) 8 9324 1785

Melbourne office:

Postal address: Level 3, 683 Burke Road, Camberwell

Victoria 3124 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 3 9882 1600

Brisbane office:

Level 5, 100 Eagle St, Brisbane

Queensland, 4000 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 7 3229 7701

Contact:

Dr Jeremy Cheesman jeremy.cheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

(Melbourne Office or 0414 765 739)

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Socio-economic profiling of Murray-Darling Basin communities

Status	Final as at 13 March, 2010
For questions contact	Dr Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates: PH:03 9882 1600 MOB: 0414 765 739 EMAIL: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is [NAME OF INTERVIEWER] and I am calling to talk to you about farming issues in your region as part of a survey being conducted for the Murray Darling Basin Authority. Your contact details have been given to us by (insert name of body providing contact) as someone who would be good to talk to about farming issues in your region as part of a survey that we are running for the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

IF HAVE NAME ON SAMPLE: May I please speak with [NAME ON SAMPLE].

IF NOT HAVE NAME ON SAMPLE: May I please speak with the farm manager? [INCLUDE INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS HERE]

RE-INTRODUCE YOURSELF OR THE STUDY, IF NECESSARY.

Continue 1
Make appointment 2
Refused - RECORD AS FIRST LEVEL REFUSAL 3

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the MDBA, is in the process of developing a draft Basin Plan which is due for release in the middle of this year.

In developing the basin plan, the MDBA is seeking to gain a better understanding of communities within the Basin.

The objectives of the survey are to better understand the people who are living and working in the region, and the issues that you currently face. We are calling today to ask you to participate in this survey. The survey will take around 20 minutes to complete and involves questions about you, your farm, and your management of the farm

The survey is being administered by DBM Consultants, a professional research company, on behalf of the Authority and all information you provide will be held strictly confidential, in accordance with the Code of Professional Behaviour set out by the Market Research Society of Australia and the Privacy legislation. If you have any questions we can take your name and number, and ask our project manager, Steve Luxa, to call you back or, you can contact him on our Toll free number 1800 063 989 and quote Q299.

Do you have 20 minutes to answer our survey?

Part 1: Farm profile

In this survey we will be asking you a series of questions about ‘your property’ by which we mean all of the farming land you presently own, manage, or operate. In the survey, a ‘farm’ can include any agricultural production activity.

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We would like to start by asking you some questions about your property and your farming history.

Section	Content block	Question	Response categories
1	Farm/business context	Which one or more of the following would you describe yourself as: a horticulture, broadacre, livestock, dairy farmer or other? (Multiple Response) Interviewer note: Horticulture examples: - citrus, stone fruits, grapes, pome fruits (apple, pear), vegetables Broadacre examples:- rice, cotton, grain Livestock examples:- cattle, sheep Dairy cattle:- milk production Other:- e.g. horses, pigs, ducks, chickens) Note for Programmers: Need to code 1 or 2 as crops for later codeframe	1. Horticulture 2. Broadacre (including rice) 3. Livestock 4. Dairy 5. Other
		IF Horticulture, what types of horticulture? (Multiple Response)	Wine Grape Growing Table Grape Growing Stone, pome (apple and pear) fruit growing Citrus growing Vegetable Growing Other horticulture growing
		IF Broadacre, what types of broadacre? (Multiple Response)	Rice growing Cotton growing Grain Growing Fodder crops
		IF Livestock, what type of livestock ?(Multiple Response)	1. Sheep Farming (Wool) 2. Sheep farming (meat) 3. 3. Beef Cattle Farming

		4. Other (specify)
	IF Other, what types?	Horses Pigs Ducks Chickens Or Other (specify)
	Would you describe your farm as	A business A lifestyle / hobby farm
	Is your farming property a corporate or family farm	A family farm / a corporate farm
	Including earlier generations, approximately how long has your family been farming in the local region [Interviewers: By local region we mean the area within approx 50Kms of where they live.]	Years
	For approximately how many years have you been farming in the local region?	Years
	For how many years have you been living in the local region?	Years
	What is the postcode of your place of residence	Postcode
	In what postcode(s) is the farm located	Postcodes
	In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues facing some regions, and for each issue, I'd like you to tell me how much you think it is a concern for <u>your region</u> . Please rate each issue from 1, being not a concern at all, to 5, being a major concern.	People leaving the region Changing composition of people in the region Access to education services Access to essential services (such as health) General economic decline in the region Lower levels of participation in community activities Higher levels of stress Access to public transport options Unemployment Underemployment (i.e. people wanting to work more than they are) The state of the natural environment in your region
	In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues for you, and for each issue, I'd like you to use the same scale to tell me how much of a concern the issue is for you. Recall that a rating of 1 means 'not a concern at all', and a 5, means 'a major concern'.	Commodity prices Input costs Interest rates Cash flow Farm debt levels Labour availability and cost Water Drought Time available to be involved in community activities Time available to be with friends and family Time available for yourself (playing sport etc) Time available for leisure and holidays

I'd now like to ask you three quick questions about your farm.

2	Farm management	What's the total area of the one or more farm properties that you own or manage?	Hectares or acres
		Was your farm ever an irrigated farm in the last 10 years?	Yes No
		If you wanted to, could your farm access an irrigation water source?	No Yes. Water from an irrigation system Yes. Direct take from a river Yes. Groundwater
		[IF NOT 'No'] How many water entitlements or shares do you hold, if any, including any sleeper licenses?	ML

Part 2: Farm change

Thank you for providing me with an understanding of your farm. Now I would like to discuss with you whether...

1. ...you have changed your farming operations over the past five years during the dry; and
2. ...whether you may change the things you do on your farm if there are changes in annual rainfall received on farms in your area.

Changes in the past five years

Based on your postcode and information from the Bureau of Meteorology, the rainfall in your region over the last 5 years has been LOOKUP [Substantially lower than /Somewhat lower than /About the same as /Somewhat higher than /Substantially higher than] the long-term average rainfall for your region. The temperature in your region over the last 5 years has been LOOK UP “phrase” than/compared to the long-term average temperature for your region

Does that sound roughly correct to you?

	If respondent says no. OK, sorry for getting that wrong. Can you tell me first then whether over the past five years rainfall and temperature in your region has been relatively [If necessary, one code for rainfall and one code for temperature if they are different]	Substantially lower Somewhat lower About the same Somewhat higher Substantially higher
--	--	---

Can you tell me whether over the past five years you have changed your farming operations in particular in response to changed rainfall patterns and temperature?
IF YES, how have you changed your farming operations?

USE CODEFRAME and open ended question similar to the irrigator survey

Changes in the future

Now that I understand what you have done in the past, we would like to discuss what you may do in the future in response to changes in rainfall and regional water availability

We want to stress that the future rainfall and water availability scenarios that we are going to discuss are imaginary. The scenarios deal with changes in rainfall and regional water availability from what you've experienced during the past five years. We will mainly be discussing how you would change your farming operations as rainfall and regional water availability to your farm changes .

While we are about to discuss changes to long run average rainfall, please assume that annual rainfall and temperature will continue to show natural variation over time. In other words, you wouldn't receive the average rainfall every year. Similarly, please assume the seasonal variations in rainfall patterns and temperature would not change.

Scenario 1

First, I'd like you to imagine that the amount of rainfall in the future looking forward would be about the same as in the last five years.. Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

IF YES, What would you change?

USE CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATIONS QUESTIONS (similar to the irrigator survey)

Scenario 2

I'd now like you to imagine that rainfall patterns and temperature would return to the long-term average for the future looking forward. Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

IF YES, What would you change?

USE CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATIONS QUESTIONS (similar to the irrigator survey)

RANDOMLY ASSIGN EITHER SCENARIO 3 OR 4 TO EACH RESPONDENT (IE EACH RESPONDENT ONLY DOES ONE OF THESE SCENARIOS)

Scenario 3

Now imagine that rainfall in the future is 20 % less than the long-term average for your region. Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

IF YES, What would you change?

USE CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATIONS QUESTIONS (similar to the irrigator survey)

RANDOMLY ASSIGN EITHER SCENARIO 3 OR 4 TO EACH RESPONDENT (IE EACH RESPONDENT ONLY DOES ONE OF THESE SCENARIOS)

Scenario 4

Finally, please imagine that rainfall in the future is 40 % less than the long-term average for your region. Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

IF YES, What would you change?

USE CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATIONS QUESTIONS (similar to the irrigator survey)

Part 3: Background information

Now we would like to ask you some information about your farm's financial situation. In discussing your farm financial situation we are only looking for rough estimates. If you don't want to answer any of these questions please tell us and we will skip to the next one. However, the more information we can gather, the better will be the MDBAs understanding of the financial situation facing farmers in your region, so we encourage you to contribute.

4	Farm financial	Is your farm	Mortgaged /Owned / or leased
		On average for each year over the past five years what has been your average farm gross income/ revenue (i.e. the money you received for selling farm goods)	RANGES TBA
		Roughly what have been your average annual farm costs over the past 5 years? Include all costs of running the farm business, but exclude depreciation, and changes in stock.	RANGES TBA
		Roughly, what was the estimated before tax primary production profit for your property over the past 5 years (Interviewers: Profit is calculated as Farm income, less cash costs, less depreciation)?	RANGES TBA
		Including yourself, on average over the past five years, approximately how many full time employees does your farm have each year?	Open
		On average over the past five years how many part time has your farm/ business had each year?	Open
		On average over the past five years how many seasonal employees has your farm / business had each year?	
		On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you rate the viability of your farm given your average primary production income over the past five years? with 1 being 'Definitely not viable' and 5 being 'Definitely viable', how do you rate the viability of your farm?	5 point scale
		If you sold your farm today (excluding any water entitlements), roughly how much do you think you could get for it (including stock, capital, land)	RANGES TBA
		Roughly how much is your farm debt?	RANGES TBA
		In the last 5 years have you obtained an income from off the farm? Yes/No If Yes...Roughly what has been your average off-farm income over the past 5 years?	RANGES TBA

		Roughly, how much support have you received on average through the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment scheme during the past five years (e.g. relief payment or interest rate subsidy or center link payments)	Open
5	Farm location	What is the nearest town to your farming property?	Name
		What is the nearest regional centre to your farming property?	Same as nearest town
		[Regional centre is defined as town with population exceeding 10, 000 people]	Name of different town (Specify)
		Of all of your farm costs including labour, equipment, machinery, financial services, what percentage would you buy from your nearest town each year?	(blank)
		SKIP IF NEAREST REGIONAL CENTRE= 'SAME AS NEAREST TOWN' Of all of your farm costs including labour, equipment, machinery, financial services, what percentage would you buy from your nearest regional centre each year?	(blank)

Now we would like to ask you some questions about your health, and your sense of belonging in your regional community. Please indicate if you do not feel comfortable answering any of these questions as we go along, and we can skip to the next one. Again, the more information we have about your health and wellbeing, the better MDBA will understand your personal situation and the strength of social networks in your regional community.

	For the next three questions can you please answer on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Strongly Disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree	
	Most people you meet keep their word	5 point scale
	When I feel lonely, there are several people I could talk to	5 point scale
	Generally I feel optimistic about my future in the region	5 point scale
	For the next eight questions, I am going to read you a list of questions we would like you to score yourself with a number within a 5 point range. A score of 5 means completely satisfied, whereas at the other end of the range a score of 1 means completely dissatisfied. (NB: After a bit the interviewer may drop the stem "how satisfied are you" and just ask "... with ...")	
	How satisfied are you with your standard of living?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with your health?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with what you are achieving in life?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with feeling part of your community?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with your future security?	5 point scale
	How satisfied are you with your spirituality or religion?	5 point scale

8	Assistance	The next series five questions deal with your future and any assistance you might need. We would like you to rate these questions on a scale of 1 to 5. A rating of 1 means the assistance with be of little use to you, a rating of 5 means the assistance would be of a great deal of use to you.	
		Provide direct financial assistance to manage current problems (e.g. EC for drought)	5 point scale
		Provide me with direct financial assistance to enable me to invest in the long term viability of the farm	5 point scale
		Provide me with direct financial assistance to enable me to leave the farm	5 point scale
		Provide me with training and support to increase the viability of my farm	5 point scale
		Provide me with training and support to change occupations	5 point scale
9	Background information	Gender	Male / female (enumerator can self code)
		In what year were you born	Years
		Are you married, de facto, separated, widowed, or single	married, de facto, separated, divorced, widowed, single
		How many dependents do you have (children in full time education and adults over the age of 60)	Dependents on fulltime education or under 5 year old + Adults (aging parent)
		What is your highest level of education	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University
		[IF MARRIED, DEFACTO] What is the highest level of education of your partner	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University

Closing and contacts

That is the end of our survey. Thank you for your time. Your contribution will assist the MDBA understand your region better and help in developing the Basin Plan.

If you have further questions or comments, I can provide you with contact numbers. If Yes, so I can give you the best number to call, would you like to discuss...

Questions about ...	Contact ...	Contact number
... the Basin Plan	The Murray Darling Basin Authority	1800 230 067 or visit www.mdba.gov.au .
... this survey	Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates	P: 03 9882 1600 M: 0414 765 739 E: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au
... assistance with financial and personal circumstances	Centrelink Drought Assistance line on 13 2316 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns; giving you information about, or referring you to, other services in the community such as health, legal services, support groups, emergency financial assistance and counselling; providing information about drought assistance payments and other payments and services available from Centrelink) Lifeline 24 hour counselling service, 13 1114 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns) NSW Health Drought Stress and Counselling Line 1800 201 123 Qld Farm Financial Counselling Service 13 25 23 SA Drought Assistance Hotline 13 23 16 Victorian Rural Financial Counselling Service 13 61 86	

CODEFRAME FOR CHANGES IN FARM OPERATIONS

FARMING-RELATED

Change Farm Mix

1. [IF CROPS] Plant more water efficient varieties of crops (same output with less water)
2. [IF CROPS] Plant higher yield crops (more output from same water)
3. [IF CROPS] [Plant less water efficient varieties of preferred crops]
4. [IF CROPS] [Plant lower yield preferred crops]
5. [IF CROPS] [Change my cropping pattern e.g. change rotations]
6. Aggregate or consolidate farm areas to have a larger single area

Change Cropping Area

7. Buy more land
8. Sell land
9. Reduce the area farmed on current land
10. Increase the area farmed on current land

Change Input Mix

11. Reduce employment of farm labour
12. Increase employment of farm labour
13. Increase personal work load (work longer hours)
14. Decrease personal work load (work shorter hours)
15. Increase on farm water storage capacity
16. [IF DAIRY FARMER] Change feeding systems (eg cut and carry - keep cows in limited area and bring fodder in)

Change Irrigation Technology or Practices

17. Invest in more efficient irrigation technology
18. Use more efficient irrigation management practices

Trade Water

- 19. Sell water entitlement {IF YES ask if permanent, temporary or both? AND High or low security, or combination?}
- 20. Buy more water {IF YES ask if permanent, temporary or both? AND High or low security, or combination?} }

NEW SOURCE OF INCOME

- 21. Increase off-farm income
- 22. Decrease off-farm income
- 23. Invest in value adding or processing

OTHER

- 24. Other

Record verbatim

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

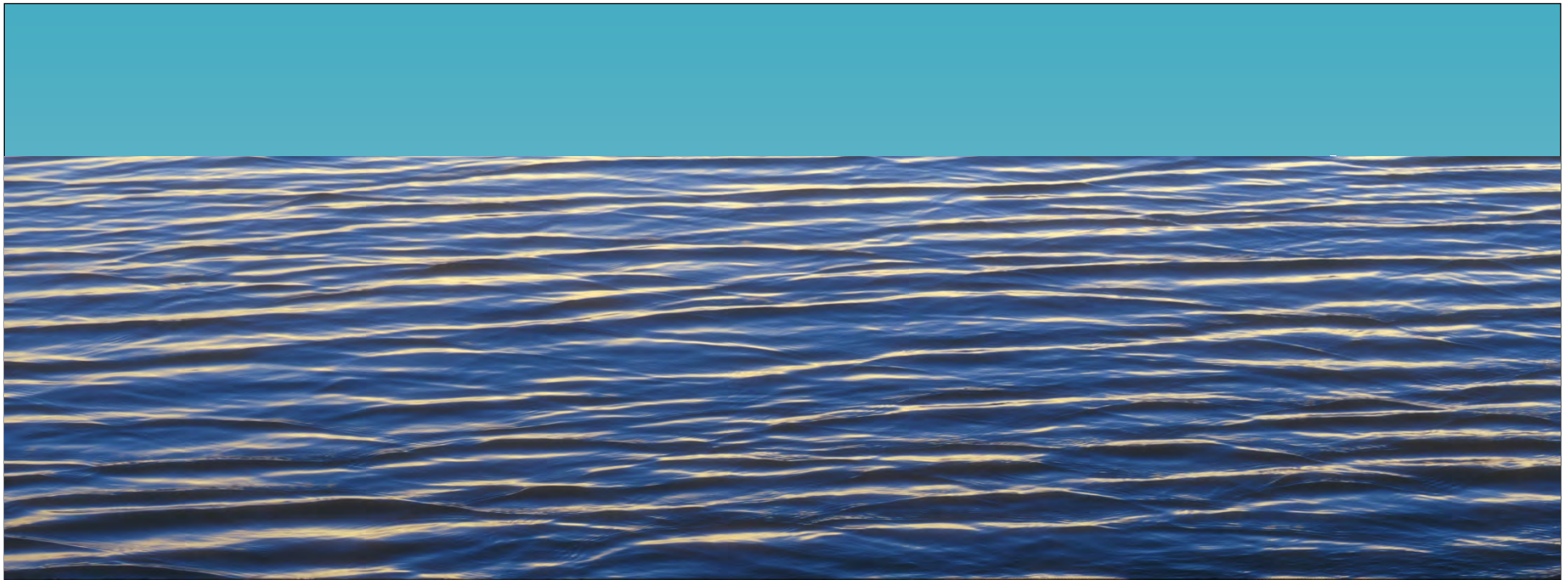
Answers to questions on notice

Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010

Question on Notice 40

Appendix 4



Delivering the Basin Plan

Economic and social profiles and impact assessment in the
Murray Darling Basin

Irrigators Phone survey instrument

March 19 2010

Marsden Jacob Associates

Financial & Economic Consultants

ABN 66 663 324 657

ACN 072 233 204

Internet: <http://www.marsdenjacob.com.au>

E-mail: economists@marsdenjacob.com.au

Perth office:

Level 6, 731 Hay St, Perth (Gledden Building), Western Australia, 6000 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 8 9324 1785

Melbourne office:

Postal address: Level 3, 683 Burke Road, Camberwell

Victoria 3124 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: +61 (0) 3 9882 1600

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Socio-economic profiling of Murray-Darling Basin communities

Status	Final as at 16 March, 2010
For questions contact	Dr Jeremy Cheesman, Marsden Jacob Associates: PH:03 9882 1600 MOB: 0414 765 739 EMAIL: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au

Introduction

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is [NAME OF INTERVIEWER] and I am calling to talk to you about farming issues in your region as part of a survey being conducted for the Murray Darling Basin Authority. Your contact details have been given to us by (insert name of body supplying contact) as someone who would be good to talk to about farming issues in your region.

IF HAVE NAME ON SAMPLE: May I please speak with [NAME ON SAMPLE].

IF NOT HAVE NAME ON SAMPLE: May I please speak with the farm manager? [INCLUDE INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS HERE]

RE-INTRODUCE YOURSELF OR THE STUDY, IF NECESSARY.

Continue 1
Make appointment 2
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Do you have 20 minutes to answer our survey?

Part 1: Farm profile

In this survey we will be asking you a series of questions about ‘your property’ by which we mean all of the farming land you presently own, manage, or operate. In the survey, a ‘farm’ can include any agricultural production activity.

We would like to start by asking you some questions about your property and your farming history.

Section	Content block	Question	Response categories
1	Farm/business context	Which one or more of the following would you describe yourself as: a horticulture, broadacre, livestock, dairy farmer or other? (Multiple Response) Interviewer note: Horticulture examples: - citrus, stone fruits, grapes, pome fruits (apple, pear), vegetables Broadacre examples:- rice, cotton, grain Livestock examples:- cattle, sheep Dairy cattle:- milk production Other:- e.g. horses, pigs, ducks, chickens) Note for Programmers: Need to code 1 or 2 as crops for later codeframe	1. Horticulture 2. Broadacre (including rice) 3. Livestock 4. Dairy 5. Other
		IF Horticulture, what types of horticulture... (Multiple Response)	Wine Grape Growing Table Grape Growing Stone, pome (apple and pear) fruit growing Citrus growing Vegetable Growing Other horticulture growing
		IF Broadacre, what types of broadacre... (Multiple Response)	Rice growing Cotton growing Grain Growing Fodder crops for dairy (hay)
		IF Livestock, what type of livestock... (Multiple Response)	Sheep Farming (Wool) Sheep farming (meat) Beef Cattle Farming Other (specify)
		IF Other, what types:	Horses Pigs Ducks Chickens

	Or Other (specify)
Would you describe your farm as	A business A lifestyle / hobby farm
Is your farming property a corporate or family farm	A family farm / a corporate farm
Including earlier generations, approximately how long has your family been farming in your local region. [Interviewers: By local region we mean the area within approx 50Kms of where they live.]	Years
For approximately how many years have you personally been farming in the local region?	Years
For how many years have you been living in the local region?	Years
In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues facing some regions, and for each issue, I'd like you to tell me how much you think it is a concern for <u>your region</u> . Please rate each issue from 1, being not a concern at all, to 5, being a major concern.	People leaving the region Drought Changing composition of people in the region Access to education services Access to essential services such as health REMIND RESPONDENTS OF SCALE Economic prosperity of the region Levels of participation in community activities Levels of stress in the community Access to public transport options REMIND RESPONDENTS OF SCALE AT THIS POINT Unemployment Underemployment (i.e. people wanting to work more than they are) The state of the natural environment in your region
In the next set of questions I will read out a list of issues <u>for you</u> , and for each issue, I'd like you to use the same scale to tell me how much of a concern the issue is for you. Recall that a rating of 1 means 'not a concern at all', and a 5, means 'a major concern'.	Commodity prices Input costs Interest rates Cash flow Farm debt levels REMIND RESPONDENTS OF SCALE AT THIS POINT Labour availability and cost Water (allocations for irrigation) Drought

		Time available to be involved in community activities Time available to be with friends and family Time available for yourself (playing sport etc) Time available for leisure and holidays
--	--	---

I'd now like to ask you some more questions about your farm.

2	Farm management	What's the total area of the one or more farm properties that you own or manage?	Hectares or acres
		Of your total farm area, how much area is set up for irrigation?	Hectares or acres
		Of the area set up for irrigation, roughly how much did you irrigate in the 2008/09 season?	Hectares or acres
		Approximately how much irrigation water did you apply to crops and pasture in the 2008/09 season?	ML
		Are you a private diverter, or part of an irrigation supply system? If both, which one is your main source? (Private diverter or within irrigation supply system)	Private diverter / within irrigation supply system / Both / other
3	Water management	[IF NOT SA] How many [high security/high priority/high reliability] water entitlements or shares do you hold?	Number
		[IF NOT SA] How many [general security/low priority/low reliability] water entitlements shares do you hold?	Number
		[IF SA] How many water entitlements or shares do you hold?	Number
		Do you hold any groundwater entitlements?	Yes No
		Do you have other types of water entitlements?	Yes (Specify type) No
		Which one or more of the following irrigation methods do you use? READ OUT Multiple Response	Flood/furrow Travelling Micro-jet fixed Drip/trickle Other (specify)
		Which one or more of the following do you use in deciding when to irrigate? READ OUT Multiple response	Soil moisture measuring tools Calendar based Weather forecast Your own observations/knowledge
	Water trading	How much irrigation water did you purchase during the 2009/2009 farming year?	ML
		How much irrigation water did you sell during the 2008/2009 farming year?	ML

Part 2: Farm change

Thank you for providing me with an understanding of your farm. Now I would like to discuss with you whether:

1. you have changed your farming operations over the past five years during the drought; and
2. whether you may change the things you do on your farm if there are changes to the amount of irrigation water supplied to farms in your area.

Changes in the past five years

[IF NOT SA]

Earlier in the survey you told me that you now hold XX (pre-fill) [high security (IF NSW)/ high priority (IF QLD)/ high reliability (IF VIC)] water entitlements and YY (pre-fill number and type) [general security (IF NSW)/ low priority (IF QLD)/ low reliability (IF VIC)] water entitlements.

Is that correct?

Yes

No

[IF not correct] OK, can you tell me what your high and low entitlements are? Record new details for XX and YY and DP to use these in calculations below.

[IF SA]

Earlier in the survey you told me that you now hold XX (pre-fill) water entitlements.

Is that correct?

Yes

No

[IF not correct] OK, can you tell me what your high and low entitlements are? Record new details for XX and DP to use these in calculations below.

Your water supplier has provided us with annual allocations of water entitlements over the past five years. I've used these to calculate your average annual water allocation.

[IF NOT SA]

By my calculations, your average allocation over the past five years was roughly ZZZ ML, made up of XXX ML of [high security (IF NSW)/ high priority (IF QLD)/ high reliability (IF VIC)] and YYY ML of [general security (IF NSW)/ low priority (IF QLD)/ low reliability (IF VIC)] water entitlements.

Is that about right?

[IF SA]

By my calculations, your average allocation over the past five years was roughly ZZZ ML..

Is that about right?

Can you tell me whether over the past five years you have changed your farming operations in response to water allocations being typically lower than the historical average?	Yes No
---	-----------

CODEFRAME FOR PAST CHANGES

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following <u>best describes</u> the changes you made in your farming operations over the last 5 years? (Multiple Response)	1. Change in Farm Mix (including changes in cropping patterns, crop types, stock levels) 2. Change in Farming Area (including changes in the area farmed and buying and selling up) 3. Change in Input Mix (including feeding systems, water storage, labour) 4. Change in Irrigation Technology or Practices 5. Trading Water and carryover 6. <u>Changes involving farm borrowing</u> 7. Changes involving Non-Farming Income 8. Other (specify)
IF ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES 1 TO 7 SELECTED ABOVE] OK, you said you have changed [IF CODE 1 ABOVE say 'the farm mix',], [IF CODE 2 ABOVE say 'the farm area, '], [IF CODE 3 ABOVE say 'the input mix, '], [IF CODE 4 ABOVE say 'the irrigation technology or practices, '], [IF CODE 5 ABOVE say 'the water shares you hold, '], [IF CODE 5 ABOVE say 'the water shares you hold',], [IF CODE 6 ABOVE say 'farm borrowing',] [IF CODE 7 ABOVE say 'the amount of income you get from sources other than farming',],. What were the main things you did?	<u>Record verbatim. (if necessary record one or two sentences)</u>

IF YES, have you made any major changes to your lifestyle in response to water allocations being lower than the historical average?

Yes

No

If YES, What changes have you made? DO NOT READ OUT

1. Semi-retired
2. Moved into town
3. Busier
4. Other (Specify - for Pre-test/Pilot)

Changes in the future

Now that I understand what you have done in the past in response to the recent drought, we would like to discuss what you may do in the future in response to various water supply scenarios.

We want to stress that the future water supply scenarios that we are going to discuss are imaginary. The scenarios involve some permanent changes in water supply from the water allocations that you've been receiving during the past five years. We will mainly be discussing how you would change your farming operations and lifestyle as water availability to your farm increases from its recent drought levels.

While we are about to discuss some changes to your long run average water supply, the actual water allocation that you receive each year will continue to vary, with annual allocations based on water availability and demand by class of entitlement.

Scenario 1

First, I'd like you to imagine that the average yield allocation on your entitlements in the future would **permanently** be about the same as in the last five years that is about ZZZ ML in total. **This would be your permanent long run average water availability.** Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

CODEFRAME FOR FUTURE CHANGES

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following best describes the changes you would make in your farming operations? (Multiple Response)	1. Change in Farm Mix (including changes in cropping patterns, crop types, stock levels) 2. Change in Farming Area (including changes in the area farmed and buying and selling up) 3. Change in Input Mix (including feeding systems, water storage, labour) 4. Change in Irrigation Technology or Practices 5. Trading Water and carryover 6. Changes in farm borrowing 7. Changes involving Non-Farming Income 8. Exit farming (change occupations / retire) 9. Other (specify)
IF ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES 1 TO 7 SELECTED ABOVE] You said you would change [IF CODE 1 ABOVE say 'the farm mix',], [IF CODE 2 ABOVE say 'the farm area, '], [IF CODE 3 ABOVE say 'the input mix, '], [IF CODE 4 ABOVE say 'the irrigation technology or practices, '], [IF CODE 5 ABOVE say 'the water shares you hold and / or carryover',], [IF CODE 6 ABOVE say 'farm borrowing',]CODE 7 ABOVE say 'the amount of income you get from sources other than farming',],. What would be the main things you would do under this scenario?	Record verbatim. (if necessary record one or two sentences)

Scenario 2

I'd now like you to imagine that the yield allocation on your entitlements would return to the long-term average for the future going forward is about ZZZZ ML in total. **This would be your permanent long run average water availability.** Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following best describes the changes you would make in your farming operations? (Multiple Response)	1. Change in Farm Mix (including changes in cropping patterns, crop types, stock levels) 2. Change in Farming Area (including changes in the area farmed and buying and selling up) 3. Change in Input Mix (including feeding systems, water storage, labour)
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	4. Change in Irrigation Technology or Practices 5. Trading Water and carryover 6. Changes in farm borrowing 7. Changes involving Non-Farming Income 8. Exit farming (change occupations / retire) 9. Other (specify)
IF ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES 1 TO 7 SELECTED ABOVE] You said you would change [IF CODE 1 ABOVE say 'the farm mix',], [IF CODE 2 ABOVE say 'the farm area, '], [IF CODE 3 ABOVE say 'the input mix, '], [IF CODE 4 ABOVE say 'the irrigation technology or practices, '], [IF CODE 5 ABOVE say 'the water shares you hold and / or carryover',], [IF CODE 6 ABOVE say 'farm borrowing',]CODE 7 ABOVE say 'the amount of income you get from sources other than farming',],. What would be the main things you would do under this scenario?	Record verbatim. (if necessary record one or two sentences)

RANDOMLY ASSIGN EITHER SCENARIO 3 OR 4 TO EACH RESPONDENT (IE EACH RESPONDENT ONLY DOES ONE OF THESE SCENARIOS)

Scenario 3

Finally, please imagine that the yield allocation on your entitlements in the future is 20 % less than the long-term average for your region, or about [0.8*ZZZZ] ML. **This would be your permanent long run average water availability.** Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following best describes the changes you would make in your farming operations? (Multiple Response)	1. Change in Farm Mix (including changes in cropping patterns, crop types, stock levels) 2. Change in Farming Area (including changes in the area farmed and buying and selling up) 3. Change in Input Mix (including feeding systems, water storage, labour) 4. Change in Irrigation Technology or Practices 5. Trading Water and carryover 6. Changes in farm borrowing 7. Changes involving Non-Farming Income 8. Exit farming (change occupations / retire) 9. Other (specify)
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IF ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES 1 TO 7 SELECTED ABOVE] You said you would change [IF CODE 1 ABOVE say ‘the farm mix’,], [IF CODE 2 ABOVE say ‘the farm area, ’], [IF CODE 3 ABOVE say ‘the input mix, ’], [IF CODE 4 ABOVE say ‘the irrigation technology or practices, ’], [IF CODE 5 ABOVE say ‘the water shares you hold and / or carryover’,], [IF CODE 6 ABOVE say ‘farm borrowing’,]CODE 7 ABOVE say ‘the amount of income you get from sources other than farming’,],. What would be the main things you would do under this scenario?	Record verbatim. (if necessary record one or two sentences)

Scenario 4

Finally, please imagine that the yield allocation on your entitlements in the future is 40 % less than the long-term average for your region, or about [0.6*ZZZZ] ML.. **This would be your permanent long run average water availability.** Under this assumption, do you think you would make any changes to your farming operations as a result?

Yes

No

[IF YES, In which one or more of the following best describes the changes you would make in your farming operations? (Multiple Response)	1. Change in Farm Mix (including changes in cropping patterns, crop types, stock levels) 2. Change in Farming Area (including changes in the area farmed and buying and selling up) 3. Change in Input Mix (including feeding systems, water storage, labour) 4. Change in Irrigation Technology or Practices 5. Trading Water and carryover 6. Changes in farm borrowing 7. Changes involving Non-Farming Income 8. Exit farming (change occupations / retire) 9. Other (specify)
IF ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES 1 TO 7 SELECTED ABOVE] You said you would change [IF CODE 1 ABOVE say ‘the farm mix’,], [IF CODE 2 ABOVE say ‘the farm area, ’], [IF CODE 3 ABOVE say ‘the input mix, ’], [IF CODE 4 ABOVE say ‘the irrigation technology or practices, ’], [IF CODE 5 ABOVE say ‘the water shares you hold and / or carryover’,], [IF CODE 6 ABOVE say ‘farm borrowing’,]CODE 7 ABOVE say ‘the amount of income you get from sources other	Record verbatim. (if necessary record one or two sentences)

than farming’],. What would be the main things you would do under this scenario?	
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Part 3: Background information

Now we would like to ask you some information about your farm’s financial situation. In discussing your farm financial situation we are only looking for rough estimates. If you don’t want to answer any of these questions please tell us and we will skip to the next one. However, the more information we can gather, the better will be the MDBAs understanding of the financial situation facing farmers in your region, so we encourage you to contribute.

4	Farm financial	Is your farm	Mortgaged / Owned / or Leased
		On average for each year over the past five years what has been your average gross farm income/ revenue? (i.e. the money you received for selling farm goods)	RANGES TBA
		Roughly what have been your average annual farm costs over the past 5 years? Include all costs of running the farm business, but exclude depreciation, and changes in stock.	RANGES TBA
		Roughly, what was the estimated before tax primary production profit for your property over the past 5 years? (Interviewer: Profit is calculated as Farm income, less cash costs, less depreciation)	RANGES TBA
		Including yourself, on average over the past five years, approximately how many full time employees does your farm have each year?	Open
		On average over the past five years how many part time has your farm / business had each year?	Open
		On average over the past five years how many seasonal employees has your farm / business had each year?	Open
		On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you rate the viability of your farm given your average primary production income over the past five years?, with 1 being ‘Definitely not viable’ and 5 being ‘Definitely viable’, how do you rate the viability of your farm?	5 point scale
		If you sold your farm today (excluding your water entitlements), roughly how much do you think you could get for it (including stock, capital, land)	RANGES TBA
		Roughly how much is your farm debt?	RANGES TBA
		In the last 5 years have you obtained an income from off the farm? Yes/No If Yes...Roughly what has been your average off-farm income over the past 5 years?	RANGES TBA
		Roughly, how much support have you received on average through the Exceptional Circumstances scheme during the past five years (e.g. relief payment or interest rate subsidy)	Open
5	Farm location	What is the nearest town to your farming property?	Name
		What is the nearest major or regional centre to your farming property? (a regional centre	Same as nearest town

	is a town with a population exceeding 10,000 people)	Name of different town (Specify)
	Of all of your farm costs including labour, equipment, machinery, financial services, what percentage would you buy from your nearest towns each year?	(blank)
	SKIP IF NEAREST REGIONAL CENTRE= 'SAME AS NEAREST TOWN' Of all of your farm costs including labour, equipment, machinery, financial services, what percentage would you buy from your nearest regional centre each year?	(blank)

Now we would like to ask you some questions about your health, and your sense of belonging in your regional community. Please indicate if you do not feel comfortable answering any of these questions as we go along, and we can skip to the next one. Again, the more information we have about your health and wellbeing, the better MDBA will understand your personal situation and the strength of social networks in your regional community.

		For the next three questions can you please answer on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Strongly Disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree	
		Most people you meet keep their word	5 point scale
		When I feel lonely, there are several people I could talk to	5 point scale
		Generally I feel optimistic about my future in the region	5 point scale
		For the next eight questions, I am going to read you a list of questions we would like you to score yourself with a number within a 5 point range. A score of 5 means completely satisfied, whereas at the other end of the range a score of 1 means completely dissatisfied. (NB: After a bit the interviewer may drop the stem "how satisfied are you' and just ask '... with ...")	
		How satisfied are you with your standard of living?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your health?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with what you are achieving in life?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with feeling part of your community?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your future security?	5 point scale
		How satisfied are you with your spirituality or religion?	5 point scale
8	Assistance	The next series six questions deal with your future and any assistance that you might need. We would like you to rate these questions on a scale of 1 to 5. A rating of 1 means the assistance would be of little use to you, a rating of 5 means the assistance would be of a great deal of use to you.	
		Provide direct financial assistance to manage current problems	5 point scale
		Provide me with direct financial assistance to enable me to invest in the long term viability of the farm	5 point scale
		Provide me with direct financial assistance to enable me to leave the farm	5 point scale

9	Background information	Provide me with training and support to increase the viability of my farm	5 point scale
		Provide me with training and support to change occupations	5 point scale
		Gender	Male / female (enumerator can self code)
		In what year were you born	Years
		Are you married, de facto, separated, widowed, or single	married, de facto, separated, divorced, widowed, single
		How many dependents do you have (children in full time education and adults over the age of 60 dependant on your income)	Dependents on fulltime education or under 5 year old + Adults (aging parent)
		What is your highest level of education	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University
		[IF MARRIED, DEFACTO] What is the highest level of education of your partner	Year 8, Year 10; Year 11 or 12; TAFE/Vocational; University
		What is the postcode of your place of residence	Postcode
		What is the postcode of your farm	Postcode

Closing and contacts

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey with me. Your contribution will assist the MDBA understand your region better, and help in developing the Basin Plan.

If you have further questions or comments, I can provide you with contact numbers. If Yes, so I can give you the best number to call, would you like to discuss...

Questions about ...	Contact ...	Contact number
... the Basin Plan	The Murray Darling Basin Authority	
... this survey	Jeremy Cheesman,	P: 03 9882 1600
	Marsden Jacob Associates	M: 0414 765 739 E: jcheesman@marsdenjacob.com.au
... assistance with financial and personal circumstances	Centrelink Drought Assistance line on 13 2316 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns; giving you information about, or referring you to, other services in the community such as health, legal services, support groups, emergency financial assistance and counselling; providing information about drought assistance payments and other payments and services available from Centrelink) Lifeline 24 hour counselling service, 13 1114 (short-term counselling and support about any personal or family concerns) NSW Health Drought Stress and Counselling Line 1800 201 123 Qld Farm Financial Counselling Service 13 25 23 SA Drought Assistance Hotline 13 23 16 Victorian Rural Financial Counselling Service 13 61 86	

