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Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and
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Impact of Managed Investment Schemes.

Between December 2001 and June 2007 in the Murray- Murrumbidgee region of NSW 39,000. Hectares has been turned into plantation forestry. This equates to 31% of total NSW applications

For the past 17 years all plantations have been on lands acquired from farmers
The average farm size in the same region is less than 1000 hectares.

Australia is yet to run out of food but it is only a matter of time, as prime agricultural land and water resources are used incorrectly.

Changing the land use from farming to forestry changes the water harvesting rights from 10% to 100% and plantations do this by mound ripping to effectively trap all run off. MIS target high rain fall country.

Remember there has been 39,000 hectares planted in the upper reaches of the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers since December 2001 and we wonder why the Murray/Darling basin is struggling for water.

As the bulk of plantations in the Murray- Murrumbidgee are softwoods (Pinus) they also cause the soil PH to rise or salinity occurs. This has been found to be one of the major contributing factors for the holding down of rural production in this region. Catchment Management Authorities and Landcare groups have spent millions of dollars trying to rectify this on going problem

Managed investment schemes compete for the high rainfall, high production country and farming enterprises are unable to compete because the MIS obtains its taxation benefit at the beginning not spread over years like farming.

The major problem with the managed investment scheme is the loss to communities
The loss to community and the loss of community

Once the farm is sold the owners leave, all farm infra structure is removed or bulldozed and planted down by contractors. This takes a very short time and the contractors move on to the next job. The contractors come from the larger centres like Tumut or Tumbarumba up to 70 or 80 ks away and don't support the small rural centres. The local community struggles because at least 2 people have left the area.

Bush fire brigades Churches CWA groups and landcare groups notice the loss straight away. If there are children involved with the move then the school may lose a teacher and the knock on effect continues. It does not take many farms to become MIS for a whole region to become a ghost area.

The Soldiers Settlement Act of the first half of the 1900s was not perfect but they created rural communities..

Big is not always better.

Truth is eternal

Ideas are only good for awhile

IDEAS. MIS have run their race. As some now collapse whole towns will be devastated or maybe lost for ever. The MIS rely on too few people to get it right and if they don't then the results can be catastrophic

TRUTH. The small family farm has carried Australia in the past and the current Federal Government is looking to agriculture to lift Australia again.

How much longer do we as a community, have to put up with the propaganda and misinformation these lobbyists for managed investment schemes continually feed us.

Yours faithfully

Daryl Weston

Ref NSW DPI prime fact 742 February 2008