

To the Senate Inquiry into the Water Amendment (saving the Golburn and Murray Rivers) Bill 2008.

I would like to plead to the inquiry to please please support this bill as raised by Senator Simon Birmingham. What John Brumby's government is doing with the continued implementation of the north south pipeline and other aspects of their water policy is in every sense immoral, anti democratic and does not make basic common sense.

Could we please have the people listened to over and above party politics. Please take a look at some of the principles upon which the new American president has vowed to stand for - that is to get rid of old dogma and politicians being controlled by vested interest groups and business interests. The city and the country alike do not agree with this project generally. Some powerful voices have spoken against it, yet the present Victorian government seems hell bent on not listening to sound advice and is still forcing this upon all.

It has been clearly outlined that if Melbourne were to implement the following they would have enough water:

- upgrade the eastern treatment plant
- harvest available rainwater
- fast track tanks for all houses and businesses
- install proper underground aquifer management
- encourage water savings via community programs

Further, a sound democratic government would not be turning against country communities and making things worse in times of dire need. They would be there to help the communities and environment of the Murray and Golburn, not trying to turn the country against the city! We ask the inquiry to support policy that supports northern Victoria and makes sense in the long term. Politics based on whooping greatest numbers is short sighted and is the long term not in the best interests of anyone.

Thank you  
Lyn Barnes