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The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to Inquiry into Water Policy Initiatives

- There has been enormous effort to work with the system by the floodplain occupants but no respect or acknowledgement has been given to the submissions and views of the non-irrigating water users.
- It has been proved beyond doubt that the attempts by Governments and their agencies to resolve bad administration with community consensus is never going to work.
- The problem must be placed in the hands of Governments to leash the monster of their own creation.
- Disturbingly the group with the most money wins the day. Large irrigator groups and/or individuals have challenged and bullied Governments into unjust and environmentally unsustainable policies.
- Floodplain graziers seriously question whether their plight really bothers decision makers at all - they feel totally expendable and hung out to dry so to speak.
- Tenure security has now been bestowed on those who gained it by dubious means and now stand to be compensated if they lose any.
- Little mention has ever been made of compensation for those who have lost their productivity from the upstream diversions.
- The long term environmental damage is destined to be immense if the huge extractions upstream on the floodplain are allowed to continue. The damage is already obvious with large trees and lignum dying, how much unseen damage has already been done to the minutiae of biodiversity.

Richard and Catherine Bucknell
"Calooma"
Dirranbandi Q'ld 4486
Phone: 0746258624
Fax: 0746258622
Email: Calooma@bigpond.com