

A personal submission to the Senate enquiry into the management of the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

I am president of the local branches of the SA Farmers Federation and the Liberal Party, and in these capacities have consultations with members of our community from time to time.

I have formed an opinion that opinions expressed by groups in the Lake Albert district may not be representative of the district as a whole.

For simplicity I have listed several dot points for consideration in this personal submission.

- Irrigation from Lake Albert is no longer considered a viable option and irrigators have come to terms with that. I suspect this also applies to Lake Alexandrina.
- The health of the Murray River must be maintained upstream from Wellington.
- Sufficient minimum fresh water flow to maintain a virtual weir at Wellington.
- Water quality (minimum OECD standards) maintained at Taillem Bend at all times.
- Focus for maintaining the Coorong be directed to supplying surface water to that area from the South East drains.
- The lower lakes should be considered as a separate body and realistic options for its survival be investigated.  
This includes the possibility of maintaining an acceptable saline environment in both Lakes with openings (one way) at the current barrages and from Lake Albert to the Coorong.

Thank you for your attention.

Barry McClure