

Dear Senator Fisher,

Would you please forward my comments to the Senate enquiry. I was to get Sen. Heffernan to do it but do not have his email.

However I look forward to all you can send me on this tragic event.
Sincerely, Keith Loeser.

Dear Senators,

I thank you for the opportunity to observe first hand the process of this enquiry.

A few points I have observed may be of some small assistance in your endeavours to sort this mess out.

I believe the "message" is clear from all taking part that they do not wish to have sea water let into the lower lakes. Indeed there was enough said to shake the most confident person who thought otherwise when the risk to the Southern Fleurieu ground waters was mentioned. Not to mention the devastation to the ecology and biodiversity for many, many decades to come. "Sea water creates stronger future risks if it is utilised" was also said.

It took Professor Mr. Mike Young to explain the simple facts of getting water to the lakes and the necessity of changing the rules to stop the theft of water along the way so that any water released can eventually reach the lakes. His presentation was very enlightening.

Dr. Muller was correct when she stated "the river cannot provide water to all users in the system!"

Perhaps of more importance was the question put by a senator regarding the effect of water removal on food production capacity? Maybe it is time to realise Senator that the only real concern is for the amount of food we produce to feed this country and forget the rest! It may take time, but I believe we will reach this situation soon enough. Realism and common sense is all that is necessary to see it happening before our eyes. In the meantime lets us look at the massive development of irrigation since South Australia signed a cap in 1968. The Eastern States have gone rampant with out any proper regulations or concerns as to the long term effects on the whole of the system. Indeed, it was said that irrigation expansion trebled during the years 1981 to 1994. Forty years of irrigation expansion in the Eastern States is the problem and the answer required is how to remove that expansion and get back to a viable and sustainable system albeit a much smaller one.

Social and economic impacts will be high but perhaps there is a need for some Class Actions against those state governments that have participated in reckless behaviour thus seemingly giving the reason to the Federal Government to take over the full control of the Murray Darling system if it possesses the intestinal fortitude to do so.

It was also stated that cotton was being grown on ground water as the usual supply of surface water was not available! No water at ground

level so we allow business to proceed and drain the system further because cotton is a good money earner but for whom? Surely there needs more rules in place to stop this rape of precious water resources? This action if true, further indicates the reckless behaviour and the necessity for strong regulations to curb growing some crops during drier times.

Indeed the Birdsall Driess lecturer Dr Scanlon said that growers should look to go to where they can gain rainfall for their production rather than rely on irrigation with its faults and associated problems. (Salinity etc.)

Personally I feel the only way is to withdraw all licences and start again once the river has been put right by allowing it to become the river it was before rampant expansion of irrigation took its toll.

Time is against me as this must be away before close of business today so I wish you all well and trust you have the strength and courage to do what is good for the river and environment before we lose it all together.

Yours most Sincerely
Keith Loeser