Booth Associates

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17 December, 2010

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Email: engagement@mdba.gov.au

Dear Sir

**Re: Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan**

As a business owner I am very concerned about the *Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan*. The proposed 3,000GL to 4,000GL cut to current diversions will significantly reduce water available for productive use within the Basin.

In my opinion there has been a lack of consideration of the flow-on impact of removing this volume of water from productive use on our regional towns and communities and businesses such as Booth Associates.

Our community recognises the need for a sustainable environment as it is intricately tied to our future. However, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has not provided credible evidence and information to engage our communities to support such a drastic change. We are left with the impression that the cost of the cuts to diversion limits will be borne by our businesses without fair and reasonable compensation.

The release of the *Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan* has been poorly managed typified by the conflicting legal advice provided to the Government and the Authority as to the weighting to be given to environmental, social and economic factors

We are yet to be convinced that the proposed cuts to productive use are necessary over and above improved management of existing environmental water. To this end the Authority has done a poor job in managing and disseminating information to our communities as key stakeholders in the process.

In my opinion the Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan should be scrapped and the process should be recommenced with a much fairer weighting to social, environmental and economic factors.

Yours faithfully

Michael Ryan
**Principal Consultant**

cc: Hon Tony Burke, MP
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia