MURRAY VALLEY WATER DIVERTERS ADVISORY ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

Chairman: Mr Neil Eagle

Secretary: Mrs Tanya Heffer
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To: NSW and Federal Politicians
Federal Parliamentary Enquiries

The attached two Submissions to the Murray Darling Basin Authority are being forwarded to you due to the extreme concern of not only myself, but also of communities throughout the Murray Darling Basin. This concern was clearly demonstrated at the series of meetings conducted by the MDBA in presenting their Guide to the Proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Since the first of those meetings it has become clearly apparent, and reinforced by legal opinion, that the 2007 Water Act contravenes the COAG NWI basic premise that economic, social and environmental needs must be given equal weighting in balancing any competing claims for our water resources.

I am incredulous that such a flawed Act could have had bi-partisan support across the Coalition, Labor and Greens – with the sole exception being the independent, Tony Windsor.

Furthermore, to see the 2008 Amendment Bill also passed with the same level of support, primarily to address the realisation of the threat to 'critical human needs' supply in a drought or low river flow scenario, demonstrates the almost immediate acknowledgement that the 2007 Water Act was an ill-conceived disaster.

To not further realise the implications for the total Basin and Australia as a whole in regard to food production and regional and national impacts, is an indictment on our political representatives and their advisers.

Consequently, I am writing to you to request that you will publicly demand and actively campaign for the necessary further amendments to the 2007 Water Act in order to make possible the balanced assessment of economic, social and environmental needs in the Basin to conform to the COAG-agreed NWI basic principles.

It is not acceptable for any politician to purposely attempt to mislead the people of the Murray Darling Basin and the Australian public by claiming that under the existing 2007 Water Act a balanced outcome is possible! It is not!

Yours faithfully,

Neil Eagle, AO
Chairman