Mrs Annette Commins,

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Chairman.
The Murray Darling Basin Authority
GPO Box 3001,
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed Guide MDBP

The proposed water cuts of up to 43% for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area are irresponsible and shameful. The long term effects of this proposal are horrendous for the farmers and local communities.

Our family business currently employs 24 people – take away the water – take away the jobs! A simple equation which will have a roll on effect. The government has been encouraging and offering financial rewards to rural communities to build new businesses and employ more people. Our Company has taken the initiative and expanded BUT if the water cuts go ahead we will be downsizing our entire business operations. A loss of jobs is a loss to the community. This will mean families leaving the towns in search of alternative employment or worse still unemployment.

Secondly, this is not a good outlook for my family, especially our children who cannot see a future in taking over a failing farming business in years to come. So where do they go and what can we offer them? Obviously not a lot if we cannot run a viable business due to a ludicrous decision made by a group of people who have no idea of "natural evolution" and how to "let nature take its course" to replenish the river system! The current floods along the Murrumbidgee River must surely indicate that nature is taking its course.

As a mother of 3 children, how do I explain to them "not to worry" it will be ok, I will fix the problem. I'm sorry, I can't this time as I don't have a big enough bandaid to cover up this crisis. Then, I also have a depressed and anxious husband who is now uncertain about our future and whether he can continue to adequately provide for us.

As a fellow human being, please consider the disastrous affect that the 43% water cuts would have on many families and communities in this area.

Yours sincerely

Annette Commins
1/12/2010