14 December 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Moira Shire Council Submission on the Murray Darling Basin Authority Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan.

Council would like to take this opportunity to provide comment on the Murray Darling Basin Authority's (MDBA) Guide to the proposed Basin Plan.

Please find attached copy of a Council report on the "Guide to the proposed Basin Plan" presented to Council at its meeting on Monday, 13 December 2010. Council resolved to endorse the submission attached to the report (copy attached) and submit it to the MDBA.

As the plan will impact on the future availability of water in our region, Moira Shire Council would like to:-

- work in partnership with the MDBA to minimise the socio-economic impacts of the plan on our community at a local level
- maintain a balanced return of water to the Murray River for environmental flows and apply the same approach to protect the needs of our family and community environments.

Our submission highlights the potential devastating impact of the sustainable diversion limits (SDL's) on our agricultural sector and the wider community.

Whilst we recognise the importance, and support the intent, to improve access to water for the environment we urge that a considered, balanced approach is taken. We offer our services to work with the MDBA to act as an interface with our local community to better inform them and minimise any further mistrust on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback on the Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan, which will dramatically affect the future of our society. We would welcome the opportunity to speak to our submission and please do not hesitate to contact me on if you would like further detail on any aspect of our submission.

Yours faithfully

Gary Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
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