17 December, 2010

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Email: engagement@mdba.gov.au

Dear Sir

Re: Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan

We are passionate about the future of the Murray-Darling Basin because as residents of this community our future depends heavily upon it.

The process adopted by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in releasing the guide to the proposed basin plan is deplorable. To openly admit at the Griffith public meeting that there much more work needed to be done to understand the social and economic impact indicates how poorly prepared the Authority was. Furthermore, the Authority was unable to present information or reasonable arguments to quell community concerns.

The level of angst that the release of the Guide has cause to our communities is of great concern. We are of the impression that the Basin Plan is being pushed by people who do not reside in the Basin, and do not rely on the region for their livelihood.

We believe it is incumbent upon the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Federal Government to convince our communities of the level of adjustment that is required within the Basin to ensure its sustainable future. In our Nation's history previous governments have been able to convince our citizens to go to war; no such gathering of support has been achieved by the Authority or government for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

In our 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 & Susanne Ryan

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