

**barbaraboyd**

**From:** "barbaraboyd" [Material Omitted]  
**To:** <www.info@mdba.go.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 December 2009 3:43 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: sdl's

----- Original Message -----

**From:** barbaraboyd  
**To:** [Material Omitted]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 3:37 PM  
**Subject:** sdl's

On behalf of the Little Merran Trust I would like to make our submission to the Stakeholder Engagement Branch.

Our Trust area was constituted in 1910 by the NSW Parliament for the purposes of maintaining and administrating those works required for the utilization of the Little Merran Creek flows for stock and other purposes. The Trust was established for a total area of 63.715 hectares. It extends over a length of 74 kilometers including an estimated 260 kilometers of creek lines supplying water to 6543 hectares of licensed area. Since those days a great many things have changed in the type of water use along the Merran system without legislative adjustment to the Trust authority. Separate licensed areas vary on an individual basis with an irrigated area of 2313 hectares. These irrigation licenses have been issued under part 11 of the water act of 1912. Water is used for mixed farming enterprises growing cattle, sheep, cereals, rice, small seed, lucerne and hay productions. Within the district there are approximately 108 separate holdings contributing to the support of more than 150 family units with on farm irrigation development in order to secure their income and effectively utilize the available irrigation water. Estimated stock in the Trust area would be approximately 76,000 sheep and 3700 cattle and revenue from crops etc, could equate to an estimated \$20,000,000.00 annually.

The whole of the Merran Creek System supports a prolific population of Red Gum and Box Tree stands which are an asset to this region in respect to tourism, recreation, flora and fauna and there are many endangered species in the area, as supported by government studies into the Eco system of our creeks system.

The ratepayers of the Trust have made huge sacrifices with the loss of revenue due to drought and the Merran Creek System being constantly shut off. The last two years was the first time in 100 years with only "pulses" of water being sent down twice a year. DWE had put a 3/4 temporary water restriction order on the Trust system. This enabled DWE to close our creeks system and disable irrigators any form of irrigation. However the disasters of these irregular "pulses" have been well documented in local and national media, showing the killing of many mature Murray Cod and Perch/yellowbelly. As this area is widely known as the nursery area for these and many other native fish species within the Murray Basin.

The previous two pulses during 2008 provided a total of 12,867 meg which would equal 35 meg per day constant flow, resulting in better quality water for land holders and a much better environment for the Merran System which has a very large Murray Cod population.

We would like to use our water -not sell it - because the Merran Creek System area does not have any other way of getting water ie. Not like Murray River Pumpers who can access their entitlements whenever there is a general river allocation announced. Murray Irrigation shareholders have access to channel systems from which they receive their allocations.

We believe that when State Water issues an allocation, which is 13% at this point in time, we should be able to access our entitled water like everyone else in NSW. We pay for our allocation, we therefore believe that we should be able to access it to use it. Our members are farmers not water traders.

Our System falls within the Shire of Wakool and the water exits the Murray River west of Barham flowing down the Merran Creek and its associated tributaries which make up our Little Merran Water Trust and back into the Murray River via the Wakool and Edwards Rivers. It is then re-credited back to DWE. Finally the Trust wants you to keep our icon area consisting of Merran, Mulligans, Coobool, St. Helena, Waddy and associated creeks and the Wakool and Neimer/ Colligen rivers open with flows all year round to sustain the valuable flora and fauna and the irrigators whose livelihoods depend on this life giving water.

18/12/2009

Yours sincerley,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Boyd".

Barbara Boyd.  
Secretary of Little Merran Creek Trust.