

[material omitted]

18 Dec. 09

**To whom it may concern,**

I am prompted to make a submission by my concerns in regard to the future environmental demands for a changing water resource. There has been little discussion about the type of environment that needs to be protected into the future and if inflows into the system are reduced by as much as has been predicted in some modelling (40% NRSWS table 2.1 p22) then it is difficult to argue that all wetlands can be expected to be maintained to their current or long term historic levels. It should be remembered that is not that many years ago that governments, both state and federal were investing significant amounts of money in the construction of surface drainage systems and ground water control pumps that are currently lying idle.

In considering the social and economic impact on regions within the MDB facing reduced access to water for irrigation and food production it is necessary to look at the ongoing cost to the community. While the seller of the water gains an immediate benefit the multiplying benefit to the local economy is lost for ever. It is also important to recognise the impact on land values as a result of the retraction of irrigation systems through the modernisation process. This not only has a detrimental effect on the landowner but also the local municipality due to the decreased value of the rate base.

The approach to determining WRP's appears quite messy and particular locations maybe subject to several depending on surface-water, ground-water, state boundaries and methods of take. If a single authority managing the whole basin is meant to simplify the process, I believe this issue cause a great deal of angst.

Yours sincerely

Neil Pankhurst