



Incorporating Coomealla, Carlwaa
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23th May 2000

The Hon Richard Amery MP,
Minister for Land and Water Conservation
Level 17 "Parkview"
157 Liverpool St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Minister,

Re: MDBMC draft "Review of the Operation of the Cap"

I write on behalf of the shareholder customers of Western Murray Irrigation regarding a serious misinterpretation of the 'White Paper' in the Murray Darling Basin Commission Ministerial Council 'Review of the Operation of the Cap.'

The error is on Page 56 of the companion paper "Economic and Social Impacts". On this page reference is made to the perception by the Hay Water Users Association of the detrimental effect on general security allocation by the allocation to high security license holders and their ability to trade these allocations.

The interpretation of the Hay Water Users Association is simplistic, as it ignores the historic reasons for the allocation of high security water and the significant water savings made by high security irrigators in the past 20 years.

The following comment is made in the report:

"This concern is recognised by the NSW Government's White Paper, which provides holders of High Security with a choice. They can either obtain 100% of their entitlement, but then have no right to trade, or they can claim their allocation at the level of General Security, along with the right to trade."

This interpretation is clearly in conflict with the options provided in the White Paper. For this reason I urge you to correct the Council's interpretation of this section.

The integrity of high security allocations is a key part of the enormous changes occurring in this vibrant and prosperous part of NSW.

WMI hopes that it will be allowed to remain that way via the government committing to the retention of high security water entitlements.

I request that your department contact the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council to correct this quite erroneous interpretation of this section of the White Paper.

Yours sincerely,

per. Ian Murdoch
Ian Murdoch
Chairman

cc Peter Black – Member for Murray Darling
Murray Darling Basin Commission Ministerial Council
New South Wales Irrigators Council.