

The Council of The Shire of Bourke

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Please address all
communications to
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Your Ref

Our Ref **GM-1531-KM-R6-10**



7th August 2000

**Review of the Operation of the CAP
Murray Darling Basin Commission
GPO Box 409
CANBERRA ACT 2601**

FAXED
7/8/00

**Attention: Dr Tony McLeod
Project Manager**

Dear Sir

Please find herewith Bourke Shire Council's comments in regard to the Subject Review.

Yours faithfully


Alan Varley
GENERAL MANAGER

Review of the Operation of the CAP
Comments by Bourke Shire

1. The conclusion by the Board that the CAP is essential for the environmental sustainability of the river was not based on hard data in 1995 and little has been done to gather data since that time.

A more practical approach is needed based on hard evidence and taking account of the potential of the area and the needs of communities local, national and international.
2. The whole of the catchment must be considered and the total resource must be included in the equation. Until this is done (Queensland - South Australia) no equitable sharing of the resource can be established.
3. Insensitive implementation of the CAP has the potential to completely destroy towns through reduced incomes.
4. The CAP does not guarantee security of supply: this limitation will effect long term investment consideration.
5. The Project Board should not even consider equity issues in isolation. Extractions in Queensland and to a lesser extent other areas must be addressed before extreme controls are proposed for other areas.
6. Data must be gathered and modelling undertaken by independent credible competent bodies so that a full understanding of the system is gathered in a form that is accepted by all stakeholders.
7. End of valley flows must be used as a measure until the results of modelling as indicated in (6) is complete at which time a better method would have been found.
8. Regarding "arrangements for remedial actions" and "resetting commencement date" "Review Audit" these can only be done after (6) and (5) respectively are implemented.
9. Other Issues.
All information, research and modelling result carried out to date must be made available unconditionally to all stakeholders. The practice of selective release of information to support a particular point of view or agenda must stop. All stakeholders must act professionally and responsibly to assist the process to achieve.