

Socio-Economic Assessment of Murray-Darling Basin Submission Template

Submission Number 002

1. What organisation (if relevant) are you from?
[REDACTED]

2. What is your first name
[REDACTED]

3. Please enter your email address
[REDACTED]

Bring communities back to the heart of conversations and action that decide their future

This section encompasses the following categories:

- Governments must rebuild community trust in water reform, and lead from the front
- Current funding is not enough to support community led transitions for Basin communities impacted by water reform
- Socioeconomic neutrality criteria should be accompanied by a process to provide flexibility for communities to move to less water dependent futures where communities request this

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Panel's key findings and recommendations, and why? Please provide as much detail as possible.

To really make a change to the trust in the system. Larger penalties or even abuse it you lose it in regards to water licenses should be brought in and acted upon. To many times the big Irrigators treat fines as part of business and wear it and take the consequences on the chin. Unless a deterrent such as abuse it and lose it. It will keep occurring and it will build no trust in water reform.

5. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?

The research on the Namoi Area should be done before anything is finalised. No research has been done on the impacts water reform will have on the communities along the Namoi. The information you are using to make decisions even when you visited our community was research done on the Gwydir and Balonne. This is not a true and accurate record that you can base changes on. The Namoi is different to any other water river system.

6. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community?

Current funding will have no affect or help communities make a difference as it does not have the same impact when you take the water away. To many of these decisions are being made in offices by city centric people who have no idea what is going on in the real world or on the ground in these communities.

Meet the pressing needs of First Nations

This section encompasses the following categories:

- More needs to be done to improve social, cultural and economic outcomes for First Nations communities

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Panel's key findings and recommendations, and why? Please provide as much detail as possible.

If you have not done the research on the Namoi River and their communities it is almost impossible to know what the needs are of the first nation people

8. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?

Research has not been done across the board on all communities so how can you come up with recommendations of course there are significant gaps. Do the research. Your doing the cart before the horse.

9. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community?

No benefit what so ever. How can you make recommendations when no research has been done on all the communities in all valleys as every single one is different.

Implement water reform with greater care so potential harms are minimised

This section encompasses the following categories:

- From this point on, governments should match the pace of all further water recovery to the capacity of systems and communities to absorb and adjust change
- Basin communities need greater clarity around river operations
- The quality, timeliness and awareness of indicators related to wellbeing and the environment need to be better
- Research and innovation need more focus on helping farm businesses transition to flexible farming systems
- Moving towards more sustainable irrigation infrastructure

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Panel's key findings and recommendations, and why? Please provide as much detail as possible.

Totally disagree. You need stricter rules and regulations for those that abuse the system. Abuse your licenses you should lose them. Change the legislation you might then have more water to distribute.

11. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?

Plenty if you have not done the research how can you see the implications

12. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community?

No Not enough research has been done. To much control of NSW has been given to Federal. More control on how things should be done should be controlled by NSW

Support the capacity of communities to adapt to change

This section encompasses the following categories:

- Basin communities need greater clarity around river operations
- The quality, timeliness and awareness of indicators related to wellbeing and the environment need to be better
- The Australia Government needs to further invest in regional connectivity in the Basin

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Panel's key findings and recommendations, and why? Please provide as much detail as possible.

Agree with these findings. More research on the ground and tougher penalties for those that abuse the system should be implemented.

14. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?

Do more research on the ground as to the impacts it will have on communities. Not every Valley was researched can't base your finding on one valleys research across the board. Everyone is different.

15. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community?

No because you did not do the research on the Namoi, so how do you know what we need and how it will benefit us or make a difference.

Address critical and urgent gaps in wellbeing, infrastructure and services

This section encompasses the following categories:

- The Australian Government needs to further invest in regional connectivity in the Basin
- Basin regions and towns facing acute social and economic issues needs immediate support

16. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Panel's key findings and recommendations, and why? Please provide as much detail as possible.

Of course we all need immediate support. Pretty hard to do when you haven't done the proper research.

17. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?

Research on the Namoi Valley and the impacts reforms will have on Wee Waa, Narrabri Boggabri and Wagett communities. If you have not done the research it is a significant gap.

18. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community?

No as explained above.