

Socio-Economic Assessment of Murray-Darling Basin Submission Template

Submission Number 005

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

████████████████████

2. Please enter your first name

████████████████

3. Please enter your email

████████████████████

Additional Comment:

I see very little reference to Climate Change and its effects on water supply, and so far as the MDBA is concerned, its effect on the supply and factual use of Environmental flows. We have seen two cases in the past year where excessive amounts of EW have been delivered to the Nimmie-Caira scheme (37GI) , and the Lachlan river (22GI) which at the very least, were abnormal in a drought. I believe the EW structure MUST reflect historic conditions, not the views of people who seem to want to turn ephemeral flood plains/river/streams into wet lands. I also note there is little reference or recommendations relating to the 'Separation of Land and Water' debacle, which has been made starkly effective in these drought years. There is little doubt to many of us that this "Act" has created great difficulties for all irrigation communities.

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.

Generally agree

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

As before. the use of Environmental flows, and the separation of land and Water

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

They would make a difference

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.

Neutral - we are one nation aren't we?

8. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?
9. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community?

Possibly but not sure.

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.

Agree

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

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

Yes, in providing more surety

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

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

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

Yes, in providing more surety

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.

Agree

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

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