

Socio-Economic Assessment of Murray-Darling Basin Submission Template

Submission Number 007

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

████████████████████

2. Please enter your first name

██████

3. Please enter your email

██

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.

Findings are valid based on initial assumptions. I have issues with initial assumptions as they accept that environment water recovery is a given when it may no longer be the correct issue

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

The coronavirus pandemic and the resultant exposure of Australia to over reliance on imports means we should be looking at the ability of the Basin communities to ramp up local food and other production with better access to water

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

No

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.

Obviously in the Northern Basin and especially the western sections, reliance on water from the basin for indigenous people (as well as others) is paramount. Good findings but should not have precedence over any other implementations

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

See earlier comments, the COVID 19 crisis is changing the ground rules

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

No

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 agree, now is not the time to impose further stress on an already drought ravaged area

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

There has been no evaluation of what the national benefit would be to ramp up water availability for food production vs letting more water go to ultimate evaporation and reduction in communities

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

Better than what is currently planned

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.

The northern basis has different survival needs than the southern basis where water supply is fuelled by alpine thawing on a reasonably regular basis. The drought is showing the extreme exposure the northern basis has to climatic variation so programs should be tailored to areas, not blanket

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

The COVID crisis has shown the vulnerability of the east coast especially to issues with high population density; programs and policies should be encouraging more population in the basin communities with accompanying water and business opportunities

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

Yes

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.

Identification of the acute needs is correct. The northern basin drought has shown exactly what will happen with a man made drought created by over recovery of water for environmental use.

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

Programs to support sustainability also need to be sustainable, not one political term type approaches. How do you legislate for long term support?

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

Yes, but need to be long term