

As we said, we are seeking your feedback on anything about social and economic conditions in the Basin, and the impacts of Basin and other reforms, and on our draft findings and recommendations. Here are some specific areas on which we would like your views:

1. How does the draft report match your community's experience and situation?
2. Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing? — Technical
3. To what extent do you agree with the Panel's key findings?
4. To what extent do you agree with the Panel's recommendations?
5. If implemented, do you think our recommendations would make a difference or have a benefit to you and/or your community? — No Diff or benefit.

Panel report: Independent assessment of social and economic conditions in the Basin | A draft report

The Chair Person
Ind ass social & econ Conds Basin .
P.O. Box 1715 Tamworth. 2340.

Dear Madam,

Please find copies of 2 letters Re MDBC Reform.

Economically it will fail for all to see.
The technical yield & reliability doesn't add up.

I don't think the Government has the will or courage to tear the plan up and start from fundamentals.

Should you require further technical explanation please get in touch with me.

yours sincerely

26-3-2020.

Mr A Jones & Ms P Credlin

P1

c/- 2B Sydney

Dear Alan and Peta,

Thankyou for taking an active interest in Irrigation Water.

This letter is the sixth draft and it has been difficult. Finally, I concentrated on outcomes.

The Native Vegetation Laws in NSW were instigated by Hon P Costello and Hon R Carr. A freeze on tree clearing, no compensation, result, Carbon Credits for Australia but a cap on productivity.

A whole of Government approach was used.

Water Reform was advocated by the late Prof P Cullen. I think it will destroy all the small to medium Irrigation farms. Dept of Ag(Fed) and ABARE are in favour of reform. They say 20% of farms are producing 80% of the output. The unviable farms should sell out. The NFF share this Canberra view. They don't want drought relief wasted on unviable farms.

NSW and Victoria are the big users and producers with water. The States are responsible for Water Law and Allocations, (see Sec 100 Aust Constitution). Unused water was socialized at the end of June and next years allocation was usually 100%.

Water Reform was initiated in the 1990's by Hon J Howard and Hon P Costello with \$13 Billion.

The States agreed because the Commonwealth accepted responsibility for compensation.

A whole of Government approach was adopted.

The Hon T Fisher, Hon J Anderson and Hon M Turnbull signed in the enabling legislation.

Committees were stacked with Public Servants and the Lead Agency made all statements.

The present Ministers also have a whole of Government approach. The Hon D Littleproud,

Hon B McKenzie and Hon M Pavey are saying little, hoping market forces will prevail and the aggrieved irrigators will sell out.

The Hon A Burke was duplicitous when in Power and I expect more when Labor is returned.

Now for some Science.

Most of the Science is subjective and biased toward the Environment.

The academics seek Research Grants and Public support, they are biased.

Most of the environmental needs used to ^{be} satisfied by normal transmission flows. Now the State and Commonwealth Water holder have bought \$Billions of Sleeper allocation and activated it. This water used to be unutilized and socialized. Now it is put into some wetland, even in time of drought (not mimicking nature), Environmental flows/volumes seem to have gained priority over irrigation in secret. (see Booligal flow chart, No flow 25% of years, now Wet every year).

Please see the table of water bills over the last 18 years. These are particularly onerous in the nine years of zero allocation on the Lachlan Regulated River System. The unit cost per megalitre delivered blows hopelessly out. In these years of zero allocation the farm overheads and interest charges are unrecoverable.

Table 1: Impact of water availability pre and post Water Sharing Plan (WSP) in the Lachlan Valley

Water Year	Allocation	Annual Water Charges		Annual Use of 472 ML Entitlement (assuming 2/3 usage, 1/3 carry over)	Effective Unit Cost \$ per ML
		Fixed \$/ML	Usage \$/ML		
2000/01	100%	\$6	\$7	315 ML	\$15
2001/02	58%	\$6	\$7	315 ML	\$15
2002/03	3%	\$6	\$7	130 ML	\$30
2003/04	0%	\$7	\$8	1 ML	\$3,213
2004/05	0%	\$7	\$8	1 ML	\$3,147
2005/06	19%	\$7	\$8	90 ML	\$43
2006/07	0%	\$5	\$9	1 ML	\$2,199
2007/08	0%	\$5	\$11	1 ML	\$2,306
2008/09	0%	\$5	\$12	1 ML	\$2,214
2009/10	0%	\$5	\$14	1 ML	\$2,222
2010/11	117%	\$6	\$18	315 ML	\$27
2011/12	136%	\$6	\$19	315 ML	\$28
2012/13	0%	\$6	\$20	315 ML	\$29
2013/14	0%	\$7	\$21	32 ML	\$278
2014/15	0%	\$5	\$21	1 ML	\$2,404
2015/16	25%	\$5.1	\$21.47	78 ML	\$52
2016/17	131%	\$4.62	\$22.92	434 ML	\$28
2017/18	2%	\$4.18	\$21.30	226 ML	\$30
2018/19	0%	0% waived.	\$21.70	1 ML	0

Usage = 1 ML so Gross Cost/1 is meaningful.

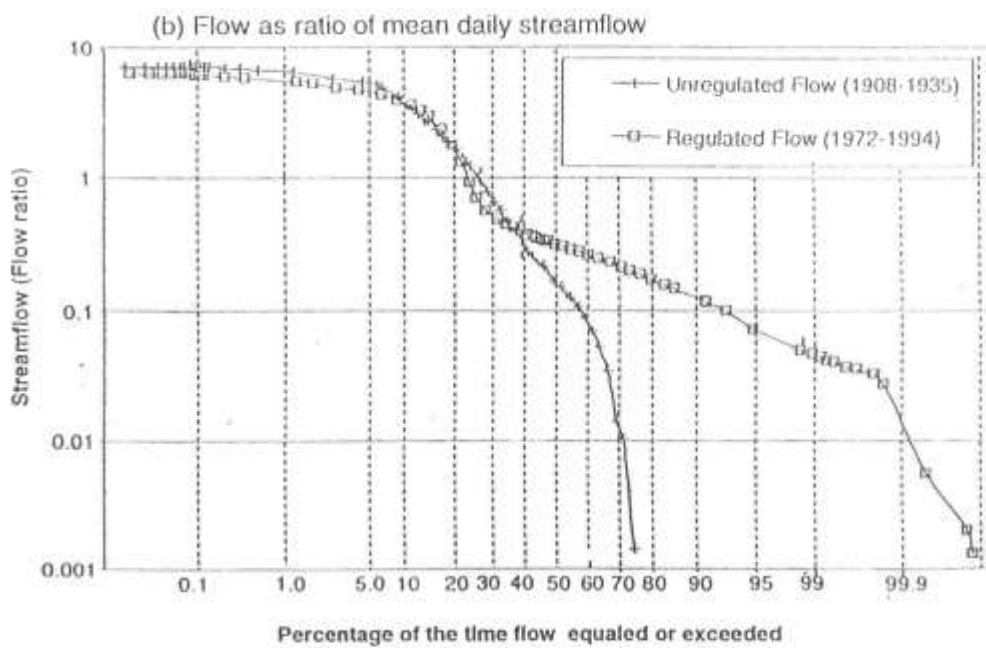
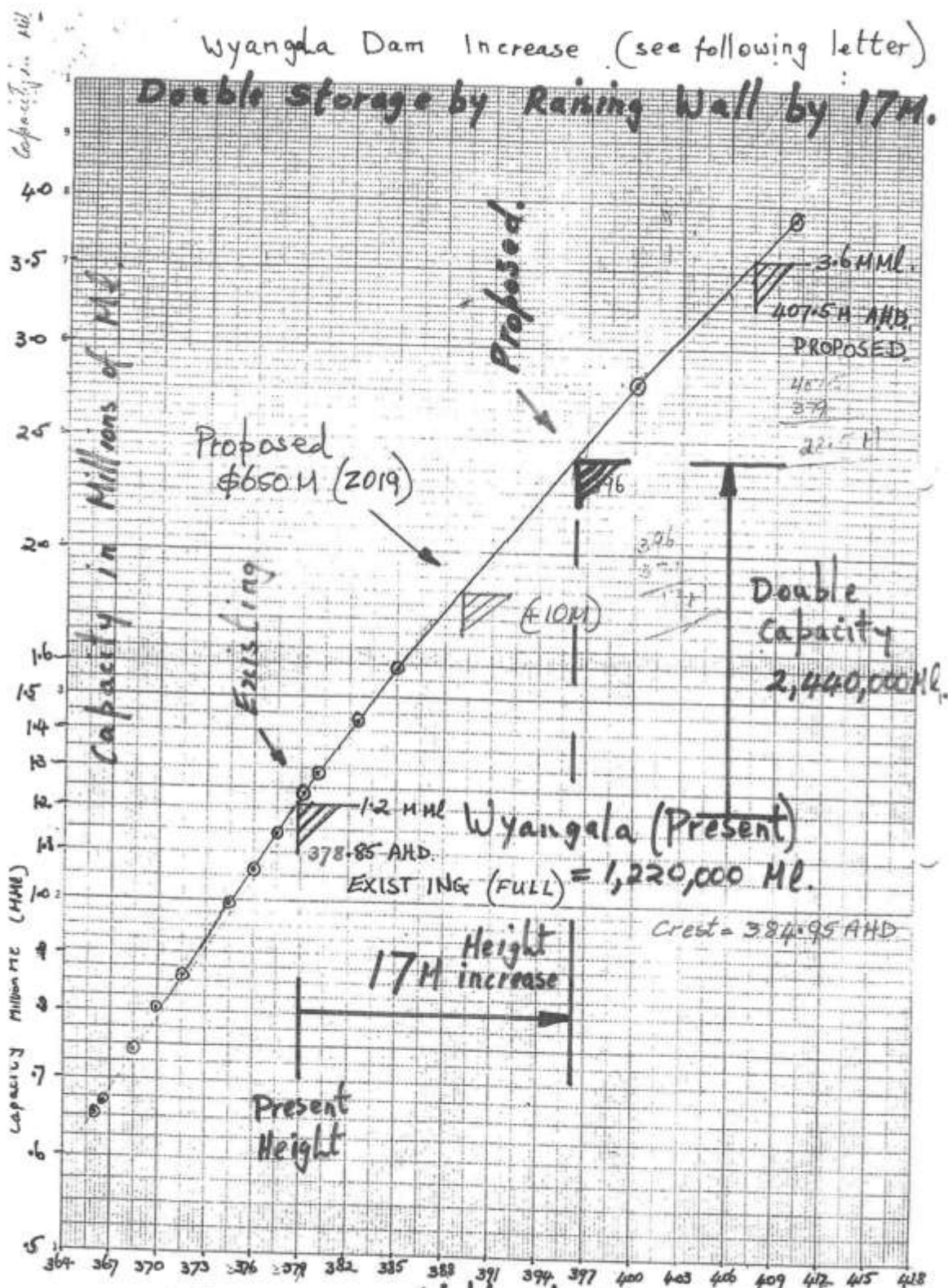


Figure A2.2: Daily flow duration Curve for Lachlan River at Booligal

Wyangala Dam Increase (see following letter)

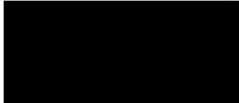
Double storage by Raising Wall by 17M.



Height of Water. Height above Sea level.

AHD = Aust Height Datum. (M)

The Hon D Littleproud MP
Minister for Water Resources AFP
P.O. Box 641, Dalby, Q.L.D. 4405


9-8-2019

Dear Sir,

I am writing to say you have got it wrong on Water Reform.

Separation of Water from Land, Water to Highest Value Use, Water Trading and Full Cost Recovery are the goals of Water Reform.

The Lachlan Cap was set at 305,000 ML despite a licenced volume of 625,000 ML and a Historic Drought usage of 420,000 ML. The Cap was set in 1994, a low usage year ?

The bureaucracy, including Mr Ken Mathews, Mr Colin Mews and Mr Philip Glide enjoy big salaries while implementing massive reductions on farmer equity without compensation.

The Hon Tim Fisher, Hon John Anderson and Hon Malcomb Turnbull introduced these reforms when in Government, they did not pay due regard to the impacts on irrigated production or the farm.

Now with 20 years of hindsight and many Zero allocations, it does not work financially. (see table).

So, where to next ?

Drought mitigation with irrigation water will soon be a thing of the past.

Cotton production will take most of the water from Rice and Dairy production because it is very Profitable.

The use of 2 Million ML of Fresh Water to maintain the Lower Murray Lakes is a Ridiculous waste of Fresh Water.

Allowing allocations to be transferred Westward into High Evaporation and Low Rainfall areas is another mistake.

In stressful times, farms will sell their water to reduce costs and satisfy their bankers equity demands.

Large Companies and Speculators with deep pockets will end up owning most of the Water.

They make up shortfalls by buying somebody else's water.

The brain drain away from Irrigated Agriculture will continue because income is unreliable, (Too Many Zero Allocations).

I could detail better yield and reliability strategies for Large Dams but it would be ignored by the present managers.

South Australia and the Premier Hon Jay Weatherill have been a particular blight on the Australian Economy. They have cost Australia \$ billions.

The Submarines cost double and should have been Nuclear. This mistake is about to be repeated.

The Car Industry should have been concentrated in Melbourne. We may have retained a car industry ?

Closing Power Stations in SA and Victoria must lead to Load Shedding and Blackouts ?

The Labor Party and The Hon Tony Burke MP enjoy Wedging the National Party over Irrigation. The Liberal Party will be dumbfounded when they loose Export Income and the next Election.

Please advise me if you are going to improve your water policies.

Yours sincerely




LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

20 December 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter in relation to Irrigation Water and Water Reform.

I have recently raised this very important public issue in Parliament. I have taken the liberty of enclosing my speech on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mark Latham'.



The Hon. Mark Latham MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Phone: 02 9230 3682
Email: mark.latham@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Legislative Council Hansard – 13 November 2019 – Proof

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

The Hon. MARK LATHAM (11:23:58): 1 move:

That the following matter of public importance should be discussed forthwith:

New South Wales' participation in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

The top priority of this Parliament should be to look after country New South Wales, which has been hit by a cruel double whammy: the long, lingering impact of the drought, now made worse by fire. It is important for the Parliament not only to wish everyone in the bush all the best in these difficult circumstances but also to take decisive action. Thankfully, last night country New South Wales had good news with the passage of the Right to Farm Bill 2019, for which the Minister, the Government and large parts of the crossbench should be congratulated.

We can go a step further, and that is to support the Deputy Premier, the Leader of The Nationals, in his determination to improve water policy in New South Wales by getting rid of this wretched Murray-Darling Basin Plan. In fact, last week Mr John Barilaro said, "If we can't see a change in how the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is working for the people of New South Wales, forget pausing the plan, rip the bloody thing up and we will walk away." The reality here is water is running out. You've got to love Bara, haven't you? He is the Aunty Jack of the New South Wales Parliament—"Rip their bloody arms off!" In this case, rip up the Murray-Darling Basin Plan because it is working decisively against the interests of New South Wales, against the interests of irrigators, farmers and the rural economy.

Why is that happening? It is pretty clear the plan has failed because it was heavily politicised in the first place. It was developed in 2012, mainly for political reasons, to push as much water down to South Australia as possible. Adelaide has been running this fake argument they are running out of drinking water—that has never been sustained—but the major parties in Canberra collaborated in 2012 to say, essentially, they are worried about the rise of Nick Xenophon and about the marginal seats in South Australia. The enormous amount of water that has been pushed down the mouth of the Murray and wasted—flushed out to the ocean when it could have been used in New South Wales—is reprehensible. On one level Xenophon was a bit of a joke—dressing up in milk bottles and tampons and running around Rundle Mall in Adelaide—but he did pose a significant threat to the major parties that were worried this was an emerging third force in South Australia. The plan has always been designed around the politics of South Australia much more than the needs of New South Wales.

One of the surprising aspects is that in the determination to get so much water down to the mouth of the Murray, it has flooded the plain at the Barmah Choke on the Murray, just east of Moama. It is amazing that the environmentalists, who say they have a concern about the natural environment and effective water use, have not raised a single complaint about the extraordinary situation where the Murray narrows naturally and you cannot get all that water pushed through to Adelaide. It has spread and destroyed the Barmah Forest. I drove past it, just south of the river, during the election campaign in February. You have to stop and have a good look at it.