

Socio-Economic Assessment of Murray-Darling Basin Submission Template

Submission Number 017

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.

I fully agree with the panels findings. Our town of Dirranbandi has been pretty much destroyed by the water buybacks and while money has been thrown at our shire council area, unfortunately our town which has been hit the hardest has received very little of it. Unfortunately governments grand ambitions to replace income lost from business closure, with income from tourism, is nothing but a pipe dream.

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

The gaps are the business's affected by the buybacks, irrigators were offered incentives to sell their water, which many chose to do and they have been able to move on with their business's and lives. Business's were not given that choice, they have just had to carry the burden of government decisions.

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

Your recommendations are very vague at this time, if your recommendations can encourage business's with equal turn overs and require equal input from local business's as the one's that have been lost, they will make a difference, if not I think the damage is irreparable.

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.

I agree more needs to be done, our towns can only survive if all parts of the community prosper and are content with the situation that they are in.

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?

I believe they will help.

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.

I very much agree that communities need greater clarity around the river. I believe unless the systems used are sustainable, this will be a just a "kick the tin along" and these debates and inquiries will go on forever.

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

The pain and suffering experienced by communities NOW and for the last 5 odd years.

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

Depends what eventuates, when you start talking about research and innovation, these are things that have been happening for thousands of years and they can only move at a certain pace.

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 wellbeing of the environment is directly related to the sustainability of the system, and this needs to be prioritised. Very few business's can survive in this day and age without good connectivity.

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?

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.

I 100% agree that towns affected need support IMMEDIATELY.

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?

I believe they will.