

**What organisation (if relevant) are you from?**

[REDACTED]

**Please enter your first name:**

[REDACTED]

**Please enter your email address:**

[REDACTED]

**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.**

At no point does it mention the possibility that those with permanent water allocations for the purpose of producing food and fibre will be provided with the allocated water and therefore will be forced into either years of nil-level production or to buying water at the current exorbitant prices which has the end result of loss instead of profit on any crop they grow. No business can sustain viability under either of these circumstances.

**Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?**

The recommendations only mention water recovery for environmental purposes. Nothing is stated about water allocations for food and fibre producers which have been traditionally given for over 100 years. South Australia, with their original complaints about not getting enough water, instigated the creation of the MDBP to the severe detriment of NSW and yet they have enjoyed 100% allocation for all their irrigators over the last two years so that none of them have suffered at all. How is this fair?

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

If your recommendations are implemented as stated, I believe that the socio-economic fabric of all small towns that rely on the farming sector for their survival will be seriously impacted in a most negative way. You only need to review the on-flow effect of 0% allocations to NSW irrigators over the past two years to see the severe economic downturn of many towns which rely on them. Businesses and farming enterprises have closed by the tens in each district, people have left in droves and the general feeling of past prosperity has all but disappeared. Despair has taken its place with the consequent affect on the mental health of many community members.

**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.**

No Answer

**Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?**

While acknowledging that First Nation communities deserve consideration in all this, why can't those with the power to sort things see that farmers need just as much consideration if Australia's position of self-sufficiency in food and fibre production is to be maintained. We are in the middle of a Covid-19 pandemic which has underlined and highlighted the need for this since borders of countries normally accessed by Australia to supplement food supplies have been closed. What are we supposed to eat if this lasts many months?

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

I do not think that the recommendations will benefit our community very much in any way. Instead I believe that they will actually result in irrigators, and those who rely on them, will be able to look forward to an even smaller slice of the pie that is "water resources".

**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 with the recommendations in so far as they go but feel they do not go far enough in ensuring that the farmers upon whom Australia's self-sufficiency relies can have access to the water they need to be the highly-efficient producers that they are.

**Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?**

Why does it have to have to be ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENT? Every farmer knows that the environment is important. Their life is all about keeping their environment in a strong and healthy state or they don't last long in their trade. More needs to be done to recognize this fact.

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

It will go a reasonable way to benefiting the community but must not stop there. The terms need to be expressed in much stronger language to ensure that the irrigators, and those who rely on them, are not overlooked as they have been to this point.

**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 am disappointed in these recommendations since they seem to be just more words about monitoring how the communities relying on the water might be affected in the future.

**Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?**

Where are the recommendations that communities must be helped NOW. Where are the words that state that these communities could again flourish if only the irrigators could have the water they need to ply their trade and grow food and fibre. We don't need more money spent on monitoring and on baselines, etc. We just need water.

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

No, no benefit from things as stated here.

**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.**

Disagree on the principle of it's simply more talk with no substance.

**Are there any significant gaps? What are we missing?**

More talk about fixing problems which wouldn't be there in the first place if the whole situation hadn't been so badly mismanaged in the first place.

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

The mental health issues found at present in the communities that rely on water, or on the producers that use water, would, in the most part, disappear overnight if only the water was allocated to the right people (and I don't mean more for the environment) and life could go back to being somewhat predictable: as much as it's possible to predict if you're dealing with nature in one way or another. Having said this, I don't think that having more money thrown at mental health services will be of much extra benefit to the community if the situation stays as it is.