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**Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five Year assessment
Productivity Commission**

Dear Commissioners

Australian Constitution: 100. Nor abridge right to use water

The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade or commerce, abridge the right of a State or of residents therein to the reasonable use of waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation.

In the early days the farm was sold with the water, and not like today water has become a business to be sold and the land become dry area.

3rd August 1999

History will tell us that MIA Council of Horticultural Associations Inc, a non-profit organisation where Horticultural farmers paid a voluntary fee, to work on behalf of the interests of the high security water users.

The MIA Council would negotiate with Murrumbidgee Irrigation and the Department of Land and Water Conservation over the desire by both Department and general security irrigators to restrict the trade in high security water.

The representatives of general security irrigators have been equally strong in their arguments that they believe that continued activation of high security water is having a major impact on their annual allocation announcements, due to the cap on diversions and the environmental flow rules.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation has now release the rules for temporary transfer of high security water for the coming season. Press release from Geoff Fishburn the Regional Director for the DLWC.

These RULES MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION AND ABILITY TO USE AND TRADE THE FULL AMOUNT OF YOUR ENTITLEMENT; HOWEVER ONE MUST FIRMLY INDICATE THE VOLUME YOU WISH TO TRADE BY 1st NOVEMBER.

As water is lodge for trade, 25% of the volume indicated will be taken into the resource set and re-allocated to general security irrigators, the other 75% will then be available for transfer to a buyer. In effect, a seller will lodge 100ML but only receive the value of 75ML, whereas a buyer who wants to receive 100 ML will need to find a seller who has 133 ML.

General security transfers will not be affected. They continue to operate on a 1:1 basis.

The MIA Council of Horticultural Associations is protecting your rights;
Please allow us to assist in your water transfers.

We encourage all growers to activate your surplus water through the temporary transfer market, increasingly, if you have not been activating your water, *other interests will try to take the water away from you*

Chairman Harley Delves

1998- 1999 - The price of water usage high security was \$24.09 per ML

1999-2000 – the price of water usage high security \$ 35.32per ML

High security user gave 5% of their water entitlement to the environment.
The MIA Council of Horticulture Associations is no more.

Water has become a complicated business a money making business for those trading in water.

How many farmers who wish to retire from farming in the MIA, and have sold their land, and then sold their water entitlements?

Young farmers who have purchased a rice farm without water, they have to go on the open market to buy water to produce rice or cotton crop, we have the most efficient farmers but they gamble with the weather and price of water

The question for the Murray-Darling Basin Commissions? Water belong to the land and it is god gift and it is free,, and not for some company to own millions of megalitres of water to be sold at a high price.

Yours Sincerely