

Submission to Productivity Commission relating to Basin Plan.

INFORMATION REQUEST 1

The Commission welcomes feedback on its approach to assessing the Basin Plan.

I attended a meeting of the Productivity Commission in Griffith NSW on Friday 13th April 2018.

Prior to the meeting I inspected the 14 items which were presented and on which responses were requested.

On the phone I asked a contact if she was aware of the terms 'Aunt Sally' or 'Dorothy Dix' questions and whether items 2 to 14 related to MDBA's environmental aims were in that category. This emphasis seems to be out of place because in our region we are concerned with the balance of the supposed triple bottom line. Perhaps she was being nice but she said that she could understand that viewpoint.

I was so concerned that I published a one page brochure entitled 'My contention is that MDBA is a complete failure.' The Commissioner - Professor Doolan - has a copy of it. I also gave her a copy of my one and a half page presentation which I was given permission to read out. The only input I had was to add 'triple bottom line' to the white board. When the time came I started to enumerate all of the social and economic factors which were downgraded due to the emphasis by MDBA of environmental considerations. The Associate Commissioner – Water, John Madden, cut me short and then ensured that I could no longer talk about such things as:

1. The book which has a sub heading of: 'How Free Trade in Water will Cripple Australian Agriculture.' Many feel that separating water from land is irreversible. This book says that it is not irreversible and must be reversed. It shows how it can be done,
2. On the previous Friday 6th April the NSW Government hosted a meeting which featured 4 items of MDBA's environmental plan. I published a leaflet entitled 'Saving the Darling.' They would not allow me to distribute it. My first statement was 'Basin Authority powerless to act against farmers harvesting floodwaters.' This will feature later on this page
3. My plan to save the Darling and other rivers with this four step plan:

Complete ban on all illegal water licenses.

Cubbie ownership and water use adjusted to suit Australia

Multiple licenses converted to only one genuine user.

Reduce volumes on legal licenses until rivers flow at full volumes.

The unpopular pipeline from the Murray River at Wentworth to Broken Hill needs to be stopped for these reasons

Halt the pipeline to Broken Hill while the losses will still allow the allocated budget to accept the losses, replace the aging pipeline from Menindee to Broken Hill and still have lots of funds left over.

Just some of the reasons for this are the MDBA system is such that water taken out of the Murray will be compensated by that same volume being taken from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA)

When I attended the blockade of the pipeline in Wentworth there were many who believe that the diameter of the pipe is sufficient to supply Broken Hill and to supply the needs of a plant to process the huge deposit of iron ore near the South Australian border which is not a part of the Broken Hill ore body. In addition, it is suggested that a proposed manganese deposit between the iron ore deposit and the Broken Hill ore body will also need water. If larger pumps are needed later they can be added.

Apart from these four immediate items they are in addition to what is on the leaflet I gave to the Commissioner. It concluded with:

There are many worthwhile avenues to explore by using the capabilities of the Productivity Commission including:

Average age of farmers over 50

Rural farm debt and food imports to Australia rising exponentially

Big Four banks in immense trouble with \$35 trillion in derivatives and 40% owned by J P Morgan, HSBC and Citigroup .

GDP growth below 3%, which leads to ever increasing debt.

Government debt so high that Government is selling assets including land, water and utilities.

The very last thing I would choose for Productivity Commission would be to examine MDBA's environmental initiatives.

Any or all of these are what Productivity Commission should be investigating and solving. On the leaflet I copied the diagram shown as Figure 3 Institutional Relationships in the Productivity Commission Issues Paper. It is shown here as the attachment for Information Request 1. It shows what can be described as alphabet soup, a dog's breakfast or a bureaucratic maze.

Just to repeat 'Basin Authority powerless to act against farmers harvesting floodwaters.'

Not one person or group can enforce the supposedly environmental taxpayer funded road which is in effect an illegal dam wall that 4 Corners and others proved as criminal. This leads to the leaflet I gave to the Productivity Commissioner 'My contention is that MDBA is a complete Failure.'

By copy of this Information request I challenge the Productivity Commissioner to debate the content of this Information Request followed by standing as an independent for Farrer in 2019 and backed by such electronic brochures like that which will be entitled: 'Productivity Commission as a Stoooge for MDBA.'

Brian Mills