

30 APR 2018

17 April 2018

Bret Walker SC
Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission
GPO Box 1445
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an idea that may contribute to the overall health of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Many people will be contributing their ideas about the management of the catchment area of the Murray-Darling Basin to give the greatest number of farmers fair access to water.

My focus is on controlling the flow of the water that makes its way into the Darling River - and that depends on the quantity of rainfall in the catchment areas and how much is left after the upstream irrigators have had their turn.

Many severely disadvantaged property owners along the Darling River rely on water from the river for their livelihood. A number of small towns and the city of Broken Hill rely on this water source - it being their main one.

The Menindee Lakes System relies on water from the Darling and is not reliable. The relatively shallow depth and the large surface area result in high levels of evaporation.

Deeper water in the Darling River would have a smaller surface area for evaporation and become a more reliable water source with a steady flow and improve the health of the river.

It would appear to me that the locks and weirs that were built on the Murray River have been effective in controlling the water flow in that river.

Therefore I suggest the building of a series of locks and weirs (or just weirs, depending on potential water traffic) along the Darling River at suitable intervals to regulate the river flow. The result would be more reliably accessible water for a longer period of time. I believe this would have wide reaching benefits and possibly deliver more water to the Murray than at present.

The implementation of the above would also have knock-on benefits of providing employment through the building programme and increasing the populations in the towns along the river, which would boost the local economy.

Yours sincerely

CAROL JACOBSON
