

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

30 April 2018

2018 Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) wishes to make only a brief submission, supporting and deferring to other submissions made by primary producer groups and local communities in the Murray-Darling Basin and those reliant on Murray-Darling Basin water. We are aware of submissions being made by, for example, the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, the National Irrigators' Council and National Farmers' Federation – and advocate careful consideration of submissions from all primary producer groups.

Key points of common ground between primary producer groups appear to be:

- The importance of the Murray-Darling Basin water resource to a range of primary producers, industry sectors and local communities.
- A strong commitment to the implementation of the Basin Plan – recognising that it has been a long road of co-operation and compromise already and consistent with water users' hopes for as much certainty as is possible in the already complex and dynamic (ever-changing) environment in which they operate. Both the National Farmers' Federation and National Irrigators' Council have emphasised that implementation of the Basin Plan is still in progress and that judgements should not be passed prematurely; as well as reiterating significant concessions made so far by irrigators and rural industries and communities, in the spirit of compromise and co-operation. However, this does not diminish the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes being achieved, informing adaptive management within the framework of the Plan and taking into account irrigator needs for as much certainty as is possible regarding water entitlements.¹
- The pursuit of a fair framework of water sharing and management.
- The need to carefully consider engineering and efficiency options/solutions, keeping an open mind (including regarding ways of delivering environmental outcomes more efficiently) – and reviewing outcomes and revising assumptions (and modelling) as needed, based on the best information available and incorporating local knowledge.
- Support for compliance activities applying to water users deliberately flouting rules, especially if this is causing significant detriment to others and undermining the operation of the Plan and confidence in the Plan. Both the National Irrigators' Council and National Farmers' Federation have made statements supporting effective compliance regimes.²

¹ Questions 3, 5 and 12 in the Terms of Reference

² Questions 7 to 9 in the Terms of Reference

We note that the SA Dairyfarmers' Association specifically support the recovery of the full 3,200 gicalitres of water and also note the requirement of neutral or improved socioeconomic outcomes for irrigators. To deliver the water flow and recovery commitments in the Plan will require strong, ongoing engagement and co-operation with upstream communities and irrigators, carefully monitoring and considering both socio-economic and environmental outcomes and making adjustments to strategies as needed.

To discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact:

NRM Liaison Officer Amy Williams on : or

Fiona Rasheed (NRM Committee Chair) on
or

Rob Kerin (Independent Chair of PPSA) on

Yours sincerely

Rob Kerin
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Fiona Rasheed
Chair, NRM Committee
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