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To [REDACTED]

Re: Submission to the Goulburn Murray Trade Rule Review

Please consider this feedback as a
submission to the Goulburn Murray Trade Rule Review from Steven Threlfall .
Trellys Tackle World
Shepparton

Murray Cod and yellowbelly are the target species in this area .
In recent years we have seen high flows between the months of Dec to March .
These high flows or intervalley transfers , IVT's , over the last few years are bridging the
environmental flows that have occurred for the last 10 or more years .
The problem with this is we have seen a loss in visitations from November , cod opening , Dec , Xmas ,
New Year and right thru Jan , Feb and Australia day, school holidays and even Easter .
This is our prime time of year for camping and fishing retail trade

Social impacts

Reduction in river visitations and tourism

The lower Goulburn River is very popular for both local and interstate visitors who enjoy fishing and
dispersed camping as part of their outdoor activities .

Benefits such as well being and mental health are also often overlooked as a part of the outdoor
experience.

Dispersed Camping and Sand Bar swimming along this stretch of river has been enjoyed along this part
of the Goulburn River for as long as most can remember but with higher flows it is basically non
existent and dangerous for children as the flows are much greater, higher and faster . The access to
bank side fishing has also been severely restricted because of banks being washed away resulting in
steep drop offs at river edge

Fishing and catch rate over this period is also affected by the High Flows , IVT , .

The catch rate is dramatically reduced and visitations have dropped to a point where most keen anglers
and their families go elsewhere .

This has been documented by Authur Rylah Institute Angler surveys that i have participated in over a three year period where we have fished in low level summer flows and caught a large number of fish and one where we fished in a high level flow and caught only one , two or no fish per team over the same period of time the next year .

I have seen the devastating environmental result of recent IVT flows or water transfers on the river banks and low level vegetation . Basically it is killing off the balance of plant and aquatic life that feeds the base supply for food required for fish and other feeders that live off the system .

IVT summer flows if left to continue will negatively impact so many aspects of natural and economic outcomes in the Lower Goulburn River area .

Economic Impacts as a result of IVT flow

A direct downturn in businesses that rely on recreational outdoor activities and user groups that visit the area to fish , camp and holiday along the Lower Goulburn River is the result in IVT flows over the months and times mentioned above .

I estimate that more than 50 % of my business is derived from Cod Fishing .

When the river conditions are falsely transformed into unnatural flows it can result in a loss of many hundreds of thousands of dollars just on my business over the period of time mentioned here .

Mine along with many other businesses lose out on millions of dollars in turnover .

Inter valley Transfers are killing the river itself and my business here in the lower Goulburn , Shepparton.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any other information

Steve Threlfall



Trellys Retail Group

Shepparton

Bendigo

Laverton

Geelong

