

Central Murray Environmental Floodplains Group incorporated is comprised of generational pioneering families deeply concerned for our community, volunteering our time and knowledge to reverse the political incompetence which is destroying us. Ultimately aiming to secure our livelihoods at present and into the future.

The Northern Victoria water resource plan is an excessively complex document derided from the top without input from the bottom. This disconnect shows in the severe economic recession currently occurring in Victoria's irrigation districts that rely on this abomination of a document.

What was once the envy of the world the Northern Victorian irrigation system has been demolished by bureaucracy, in under a generation to the point where it can not sustain itself currently, nor into the future.

The document claims to recognise indigenous communities yet does not consult with them nor does it consult with local users both recreational and industrial or with the primary producers which are the backbone of Victoria's Economy. VFF is not representative of enough users nor does it have the resources to do so. Communication through service providers will deliver better outcomes for all interested parties.

The conceited attempt of public consultations was a prime example Government disconnect from reality and contempt of the people. Not having Visuals or even a microphone at the poorly advertised and executed Kerang meeting highlighted the arrogance towards the public.

Key considerations must be adhered to

- Local discussion groups must be included in any water management or rationalisation throughout the basin.
- Only Irrigation landholders should be able to own water. American fire fighters and Collins, Pitt and Rundle street investors for example.
- System constraints need to be realised. The unsustainable horticulture take is currently too far from the main storages. This is forcing operators to exceed choke limits causing erosion damage and transition losses. Also infeasible environmental flows must be reduced to achieve a sustainable diversion where, currently they are heavily exceeded.
- Transparent reporting of the delivery impacts – Barmah flooding, river bank scouring on Goulburn and Murray, inundation of private land.
- The aim of "... productive and adaptable industries that depend on water..." Throughout the document there is no mention of Irrigation.
- Barmah choke maximum flows needs to be strictly observed. As they have previously been prior to MDBA
- Transparent Trigger points for release of excess environmental water to consumptive pool via market

- Transparent reporting of water delivery through continuous update of the Water Register Water Accounts to show status of Environmental water
- The cap stays on buybacks
- Infrastructure fees pro rata shared over all water used, not just land holders tax. Investors and environmental water holders must be paying their share of the infrastructure delivery share costs
- Account for the environmental benefit of water that spills from the dam
- Final binding approval for Environmental flooding events need to be approved by an independent locally nominated expert group.
- Carry over water must cease immediately for all Victorian water to rectify the price distortion, which is creating unacceptable extortion in the water market. Not in May or June
- Volumetric calculations require transition losses factored in. Currently one ML at Yarrawonga equals one ML at Mildura. This is increasing water losses as more water heads further from storage
- Understand, respect and follow the constitution of Australia (Sec100) which prohibits the commonwealth from taking water share detrimental to private Environmental and irrigation use.

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 the residents therein to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation.

- Hold the commonwealth to account with the Constitution (Sec 99)

Commonwealth not to give preference

The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade, commerce, or revenue, give preference to one State or any part thereof over another State or any part thereof.