

Video conference with Victorian North Murray Water Resource Plan

Our concerns:

1. **MAXIMUM AVAILABLE YIELD.**

Instead of calculating the maximum available yield, your proposed plan revolves around sustainable diversion limits and ignores the deficits involved in land use practices that deplete yield: even before the SDL's are considered! One example of this is Clear-fell logging in water catchments which deplete water yield by 30% (and compounding)

Reference: *Catchment'* [Resource Conflict in Forested Water Catchment 20181108.pdf](#)

There is no consideration of loss of Water Yield in your Plan.

2. Clear fell logging in a water catchment (for instance in the Thompson and Rubicon/Snobs Creek catchment) does cause **Climate Change** resulting in hotter, drier climate and reduction of flow rates.

Ref: http://www.wilderness.org.au//images/resources/Green-Carbon-Report_synopsis.pdf

3. The Murray Darling Catchment Authority **risk assessment documents**, lists Climate Change as the high priority of risk.

We believe that Climate Change must be managed by invoking the Precautionary Principle

ReF: [Precautionary Principle](#)

A Risk Assessment doesn't work. It is not comprehensive enough and implies a 'business as usual' approach.

4. There appears to be **no uniform consistent strategy** across the whole of the basin catchment. Each state seems to have its own jurisdiction and rules when it comes to water allocation.

Ref: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-01-16/what-caused-menindee-fish-kill-drought-water-mismanagement/10716080#lightbox-content-lightbox-22>

5. **Multiple Use of Water Resources**

Tourism is very much linked to the amount of water in our rivers and streams.

The Upper Goulburn where we live is dependent on tourism.

It would be fair to say that approx. 80% tourists who visit the region, come here for water related activity (fishing, boating, camping etc)

6. **Water quality** is a big issue in respect to the threat posed by clear-fell logging in the Snobs Creek water catchment. The State run Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery near to the township of Eildon in Central Victoria.
- Clear fell logging of a catchment directly leads to:
- the increase in turbidity & suspended solids
 - Long term reduction in flows
 - Increase in stream temperatures
 - Increase in the variation of stream flows

This provides fish to over 200 rivers, lakes and impoundments across Victoria which, in turn, supports a huge recreational fishing community.

Ref:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjGzbv kf7gAhWHf30KHfYiAksQFjACegQIBBAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fmelbournecatchments.org%2Flearn-more%2Fimpact-of-logging-on-melbourne-water%2F&usg=AOvVaw1HhyBO7oCxaMvgF2K6GHqf>

7. Economic risks of Climate Change

The Reserve bank of Aust has identified systemic climate change as the greatest to the economy.

The risk assessment method is based on historical cyclical data, not systemic change. Regulators must act now as a financial necessity.

Climate trends indicate warming temperatures, lower rainfall and less water.

Therefore, the logic would suggest that regulators must act to cease all clear-fell logging in the catchments of our streams.

Conclusion:

Alternative uses of water such as the Snobs Creek Fish hatchery that supplies all of Victoria's trout and native fish stocks, must be allocated an SDL to guarantee supply. Recreational angling employs 33,000 people and generates \$2.8billion for the Victorian economy. All this is at risk by Clear-Fell Logging in the headwaters and catchment of Snobs Creek.