

## **Table Topics**

### **1. Environment –**

- a story of how you are related to the MDB
- what aspirations/vision do you have for the MDB? 3,000GL-7,600GL?
- how might we inspire the people living in the MDB to meet the indicators?
- what can we do to restore the MDB's health in addition to the suggestions in the plan?
- what are the economic benefits of a healthy river?

### **2. Consultation -**

- what do you/we want to know? how do you/we want to be consulted?
- what does the MDBA claim to have done re consultation and what do they say they will do?
- how to manage appropriation?
- can we design a process that reflects our knowledge and experience?
- MDBA visits Adelaide, Murray Bridge and Renmark but not Meningie, Milang, Clayton?

### **3. Socio-economic modelling –**

- how have you responded to the media coverage of lost jobs, foreclosures etc?
- what is the basis of the MDBA research? quantitative? qualitative? desk top?
- where is the social dimension of their research?
- is there a vision underlying the plan for rural regions? what kind of Australia does this plan portend?
- what ideas can we come up with to create jobs in the areas with the largest water reductions?

### **4. Family farms and corporate farming –**

- for whom are we growing food and fibre?
- can the market deliver equity? willing sellers/desperate sellers?
- what about the farmers who are environmentalists?
- where are the agronomists in the report?

### **5. Environmental watering plan:**

- what does the *Water Act* say? where does it place the priority?
- 3-4,000 GL environmental flow is a bare minimum: what happens if this is not enough for the environment?
- the 27-37% is an ambit claim - will it be negotiated back?
- modelling and assumptions in the science - reliability?
- what variation might there be in drought years?

### **6. SDLs/buy backs/infrastructure and efficiencies-**

- how do you/we respond to the reporting of the SDLs?
- the 'cap' was notoriously breached – how will SDLs be policed?
- reducing SDLs and the requirements of the Water Act: can it be done?
- what efficiencies can SA achieve?
- What alternatives are there for the environment if SDLs are lowered?

### **7. Critical Human Needs -**

- what are critical human needs?
- how are urban/rural needs addressed in the Guide?
- how are plans for desalination plants related to Basin Plan?
- what of recycling, wetlands, a suite of options for Adelaide?
- should Adelaide be dependent on the River Murray?

### **8. Sustainability -**

- how do we define sustainability?
- development/mining - who monitors?
- who accounts for the water?
- population growth and water

### **9. Negotiation the Plan -**

- a plan that addresses the environment, but what is the larger vision?
- the irrigators v ecologist - a false opposition - in whose interests?
- should we call for a moratorium on ALL non-developments including the desalination plant until the MDBA is implemented and there is opportunity to analyse need more accurately?
- how to move beyond the plan?

## The Guide to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan

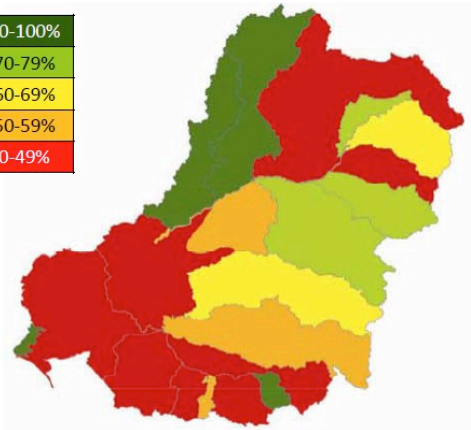
We are all in this together

What kind of Australia do we want for future generations?

The *Water Act 2007* - to promote use and management of Basin water resources in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes

### Health of the Basin

Good	80-100%
Moderate +	70-79%
Moderate -	60-69%
Poor +	50-59%
Poor -	0-49%



### Key Points of Guide to Plan

#### International Obligations

- Ramsar Convention 1971
- Migratory Bird Conventions

#### Environmental water - range

- 3,000-4,000 GL increased flows to keep Murray Mouth open 90-2% of the time
- 7,600 GL to ensure health of Basin

#### Sustainable Diversion Limits

- 27-37% reductions, buy backs, infrastructure, efficiencies

### Can we talk?

- The water market and privatisation of water (Part 4 of the Water Act 2007). Willing sellers or desperate sellers?
- Who owns our water? Family farms and international ownership
- What is a wetland worth? The economic benefits of a healthy river
- The social value of water? Establishing 'value' via market forces skews 'stakeholders' according to economic interests. Who speaks for the River?
- A vision of the post-plan Australian society? How we get there and what it will look like when we arrive?
- What is grown where, why, for whom? Waiting for the Productivity Commission Plan
- Ground water and surface water: Great Artesian Basin excluded by the Water Act

### Timetable: From the Guide to final Basin Plan

*Guide* – 8 October, regional meetings; *Draft Plan* – early 2011 – 16 weeks consultation

*Plan* – late 2011 - implementation and new rules will be put in place from mid-2012 to 2019

Basin states continue responsibility for setting allocations for water users

MDBA must report on impacts of the basin plan after 5 years and review it at least every 10

Want to know more: [www.hurrysavetheMurray.com](http://www.hurrysavetheMurray.com)