

The Murray Darling Healthy Rivers Programme.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Sirs

Having read in the Murray Pioneer last Wednesday that our local Member Mr. Tony Pasin was asking for feedback on the Healthy Rivers Programme, I would like to tender my thoughts on this matter.

I sent a copy of my plan to harvest water from Lake Argyle WA and distribute to parts of the NT and Eastern Australia to Mr Pasin last year, to which he replied on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, and he directed me to the National Water Grid, to register the Plan.

Meanwhile I received a letter from the Hon. Michael McCormack in response to my Plan sent to the Prime Minister, telling me the Plan was recommended to a "register of ideas" at the National Water Grid.

Meanwhile much discussion has taken place regarding a New Bradfield Scheme and I fear some very important points may have been overlooked, should something like that scheme should go ahead.

These are,

1. The excessive Rates of evaporation of water in flowing rivers.
2. The minimal benefits of that scheme to The Murray Darling Basin since any water flowing in connecting rivers may not in fact reach the Darling or Murray rivers.
3. Perhaps the biggest threat to the basin and it's waterways is the transportation of the highly noxious and adaptable Cane Toad. The Bradfield Scheme would provide a convenient conduit for them, and this would be devastating to the ecology and health of all species of animals and birds that rely upon the rivers for life.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 the Mildura Weekly ran a three page story of my plan, composed by their head journalist Grant Maynard, who previously had done a story by a water sector veteran from Mildura by the name of [REDACTED], who highlighted the dangers of cane toad movement.

I am sure these points I have made come under the category of ensuring in the future a healthy river system upon which so many people rely.

Thank you for taking the time to read my contribution should you choose to do so.

Peter S Bourn,

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