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Dear Madam/Sir,

I believe the Review to the Commonwealth Water Act is too early.

My concerns are regarding managing the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) in the **national interest for the driest continent on Earth:**

- ensuring the return of water extraction to environmentally sustainable levels,
- protecting, restoring and providing for the ecological values and ecosystem services of the MDB
- giving effect to international agreements (such as the Ramsar Convention on wetlands); and
- managing water resources in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes.

**basically the importance of strong environmental protection, not just for the fish and the trees - healthy rivers underpin the whole economy of the Basin.**

At the time the Act was passed, the Basin Plan was expected to be in full operation by 2014, so a review is mandated for this year. As it worked out, the Basin Plan was not finalised until the end of 2012 and the full amount of water is not due to be returned to rivers until 2019, so it's a little early to be reviewing how well it is meeting its objectives. Likewise the Act itself needs more time to see how well the complex arrangements between the Commonwealth and the states are working, whether it is benefitting the environment, and to allow the CEWH to fully develop its role in managing environmental water.

**The objectives of the Act are important and the government needs to do everything it can to support them and give them the chance to be fully effective.**

**Response please via email, rather than using trees in form of paper for a letter and envelope and tax payers money for postage!**

Best regards  
Dörte Planert

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