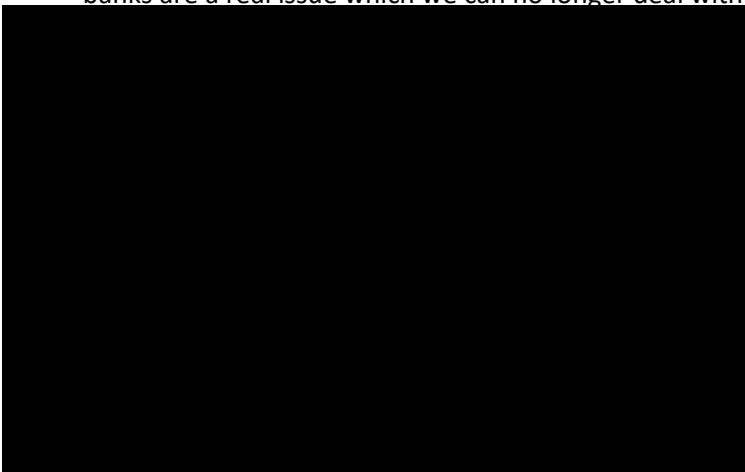




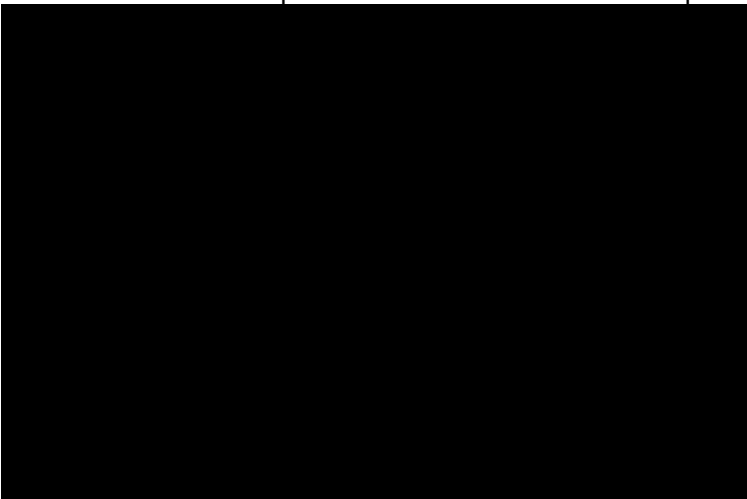
Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been reading some of the material regarding Draft Murray and Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategies and find the bulk of the material interesting but somewhat confusing. I cannot find reference to the rights and interests of landholders and Agricultural holdings mentioned within the documents; rather disappointing given that decision making is likely to have a huge impact on landholders along the rivers.

I own a property [REDACTED] with approximately [REDACTED] kilometres of river frontage. When my wife and I purchased the property there was an accessible island of around twenty five hectares included that we were able to access for grazing mid-winter, walking the cattle to and from. Since then the higher river flows have cut a deep channel and eroded the banks leaving this country inaccessible. I still pay LLS rates and Land rates on this country despite it no longer being available for grazing. Weeds and river red gum dieback due to erosion of river banks are a real issue which we can no longer deal with. Please see photographs following:



In 2009 when [REDACTED] was purchased we were able to drive our ute across the channel to the island here and up the bank where the roots are exposed.



This is the current width of the channel with a river height at Eringoarra of 4.69 on May 5th 2022. In 2009 we could walk across to the island; the width then was about 4m. The higher river flows are impacting on our capacity to farm this land.

Of the 376 hectares on [REDACTED], approximately 140 hectares become unavailable for grazing with minor to moderate flooding. This country is cut off by channels that form in the lower river paddocks. I have had to get a boat in to swim cattle out. Had there been young calves at foot it would not have been possible and the calves (and possibly cows) would have perished.

I am facing ongoing issues with the following:

- Degradation of infrastructure such as fencing
- access to irrigation pump limited and pump in danger of inundation
- silting of paddocks
- loss of majestic river red gums as banks erode and water logging continues
- weed infestation: blackberries, Nagoora burr, Bathurst Burr, thistles. Many of these take years to control after flood events
- concern about water quality as the river is silted. Water pumped to the house often looks like it has come out of a sewerage plant. All drinking water is boiled prior to consumption
- pasture losses and wasted fodder which places pressure on other country

I implore you to take into consideration the rights of legitimate land owners along the rivers. The decisions being made at higher levels threaten the viability of farming operations and farm values leaving us at risk of being “left out” and “left behind” in the markets.

Viability and sustainability for us depends on the decision making of authorities. I would like to engage in the conversation and see a fair and reasonable outcome on the back of these discussions. I am very happy for you to have an onsite visit so that you can appreciate the effects of higher river flows and frequent flood events.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]