



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Trevor Humphries



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement.

I am 72 Years old and have lived in Geelong most of my life there are two enviromental concerns i would like you to consider addressing.

1. My biggest concern is the decline in the Water levels of the Western District lakes mainly Lakes Modewarre and Murdeduke. Both these lakes were destinations for many Anglers over the years and have declined to the stage where it is probably best part of 15 years since i visited either of these Lakes.

Lake Modewarre used to have all types of water sports and had active Sailing, Speed Boat and of course Angling clubs i believe that none of these exist anymore and is a great a great loss to the people of Victoria.

I have no scientific qualifications so can only forward what i have been told, I always thought that the drying of he lakes was due to on going and past drought conditions, BUT talking with local people in nearby Winchelsea they said they believed the problem was due to pumping of groundwater by Geelong Water board therby lowering the water table and hence the water level in the lakes, maybe this could be addressed in your Ecosystem investigations.

2. Barwon River in Geelong and its eco system.

Many years ago two Breakwaters were built on the Barwon River below Geelong to enable fresh water to be provided to the Geelong People. WE no longer need them as water is supplied from the Otway Ranges, I would like to see the break waters removed and have the Barwon River returned to pre settlement days when it would have been fully Tidal right up to Geelong from Barwon Heads.

My personal layman view is that this would have dramatic effect on the current silting problems with Lake Connewarre below Geelong as it would now have tidal flushing, and I could see the river being maybe navigable right from Barwon Heads to Geelong, this is not possible now because of the Breakwaters. The way i see it is

benefits to the river at Geelong would be considerable as the saltwater should reach further up towards Geelong and maybe kill off the Carp and other species less tolerant of saltwater. The financial return to Geelong would be great as it would also allow salt water fish to get as far up river as Geelong and the river would maybe become a mecca for Bream and Other fishes Fishing as the the case with the Gippsland and Wester District rivers.

I thank you for the chance to state my concerns and maybe someone will consider the my personal views.

Regards
Trevor Humphries

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File1:

File2:

File3: