

Sarah Catherall

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 July 2017 7:57 AM  
**To:** ENRRDC  
**Subject:** submission

My submission,

1. **Assessment of the role of environmental water management in preventing or causing 'black water' events.**

There appears a lack of knowledge/monitoring of potential black water events. There appears to be a lack of coordination between agencies, to identify a black water event and the ability to get the environmental/dilution flows happening quick enough to minimise the impact.

The benefit of flooding the Gunbower Forest more regularly and in the cooler months means black water events out of the Gunbower Forest are minimised.

2. **How environmental water and environmental water managers interact with, and utilise, management tools such as carryover and whether the carryover of environmental water impacts on the availability of water for irrigators.**

Carryover is a difficult question. It is a tool used by farmers to create surety in available water for the following season. As I suppose it is a similar opportunity for the environment water user, BUT, when it is a dry year the environment knows how to handle itself, whereas farmers really need water during dry times to maintain stocking numbers and production, as in dairy or in the case of permanent plantings, so it would be great to have environmental water available for consumptive use during dry times, but during wet periods it would be great to take advantage of it to add environmental water on top of natural flows to get those areas that don't get water normally to be flooded.

3. **Consideration of what barriers exist to the more efficient use of environmental water and how these may be addressed.**

It would be good to have the ability to react to that unexpected rainfall event quickly and add environmental water on top to get a desired outcome. The ability to react to that unexpected rainfall and fill a wetland like Johnson's or Hird's from irrigation channels and then release that water later for irrigation, realising it will have great nutrients/feed in it for the fish in the Pyramid Creek on its way to be used for irrigation.

The barriers I believe are the infrastructure required to get the water to where it is required, that is generally improved outlets or weirs to manage the water.

The biggest single barrier is the lack of fish ways, especially at Koondrook, Cohuna and the National Channel, which will allow the fish from the Murray to access the Gunbower Creek and its lagoons, an excellent feed source for the fish. It naturally will create/improve the fish numbers and hence fishing in the area.

The other biggest barrier to benefits from the environmental water is carp. The sooner the Herpes virus is released the better, cleaner water, less native fish eggs being eaten, better in stream habitat, more feed for the native fish that that the environmental water has created.

The waste of environmental water in South Australia is the biggest sin. Using environmental water to keep the lake high enough so that the \$m home owners can step outside onto their luxurious boat is criminal. The barrages need to be pulled out.

It is a concern if irrigators in NSW have more water to use while Victorian irrigators have far less to use.

4. **Assessment of fees and charges applied to environmental water and whether these differ from those imposed on other water users.**

As an irrigator it is paramount that water is available when I require it. Pasture production relies on watering when required as huge production losses can occur with stressed pastures.

So we can complain about the fact that the environmental water does not pay the same costs, but I do not want to have to wait several days for irrigation water because the environment pays the same costs and therefore entitled to the water in the same way I am.

Thanks,

Neville Goulding

