



April 30, 2018

West Corugan Private Irrigation District

NSW

**RE: 2018 Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission, South Australia.**

On behalf of the West Corugan Board of Management, thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission outlining West Corugan's concerns relating to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

*We address:*

Terms of Reference C point f: *To optimise social, economic and environmental outcomes arising from the use of Basin water resources in the national interest.*

West Corugan is concerned about the Coorong River System and the mouth of the Murray River in South Australia.

The Coorong District Wetlands and Environmental Park is a highly recognised and sensitive area. The continual use of barrages is restricting the system's natural intake of seawater. By removal of the barrages and restoring the intake of seawater into Lake Albert and fresh water from other water systems, these flows will again enhance the natural water-dependant eco systems. Through the use of natural water systems, river flows and the quality and efficiency of the mouth of the river will improve.

West Corugan Private Irrigation District is also disadvantaged by the current water buying system which limits our ability to secure permanent water. We are being out bid by corporations who can secure large packages of water at inflated prices. This practice is influenced by Government and acerbated by changes to policies and Government investment.

From our small business perspective, which is totally dependent upon water, we are hindered in our economic development and long-term planning by the lack of consistent fair-trade policies and pricing regulation of the permanent water market.

In addition to our concerns regarding pricing of water and the volume of water leaving our District, West Corugan is vitally concerned about the on long-term viability of agricultural industries and small rural communities within the West Corugan Private Irrigation District.

The report prepared for the MDBA by Phil Townsend, their Senior Economic Advisor, which evaluated the effects of the Basin Plan on industries and communities, has already identified that the Deniliquin, Finley and Berrigan areas as three areas negatively impacted by the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The report highlighted that economic growth has reduced between 22% and 19% in these towns!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if further information or clarification is required.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Kelly

General Manager

WEST CORURGAN PRIVATE IRRIGATION DISTRICT