

From: David Paton
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 5:15 PM
To: 'Speirs, David (DEWNR)'
Subject: RE: Coorong matters

Dear David,

You may have sensed a level of discontent from me at yesterday's briefing. I am not clear whether you have a full understanding of my concerns and reluctance to be involved in Coorong management issues at the moment. So to clear the air I have attached the following documents: (1) my submission on the South East Flows Restoration Process that was part of the SDLAM consultative process; (2) my submission to the SA Royal Commission (this is still to appear publically on the Commission's website – so it probably should be kept confidential); (3) a copy of a letter from Warren Truss to Rob Kerin about the conditions that were placed on the State to do with the current upper southeast drainage scheme, and a letter to Gail Gago from Ian Campbell. I realize that you will have limited time to read and consider these but if you get time then read the Truss letter. The SDLAM submission has been publically available since December last year – and your Department should have briefed you on this because it should be part of assessing the SERFP but I get the sense that they have not. I wear my passion for the environment on my sleeve and publically. I have no agenda other than helping protect and enhance this state's natural assets for future generations. When I see negligent or inappropriate actions taking place I am not going to sit silently. Your Department will be fully aware of my discontent with management in the Coorong. I hope the above provides sufficient background for you to appreciate my position and my reluctance to engage in forums like the Coorong Summit on June 5. For me the fundamental issues continue to be glossed over. These would be the questions I would be asking – (1) Is the State obliged to cease releasing water from the Upper South East into the southern Coorong given the conspicuous issues that have appeared and been present for 5 years (there is an ecological, legal and moral obligation answer to that question); and (2) The question I would be asking your staff (and the scientists) around the SERFP is around risks (are there really no ecological risks) and benefits (does the southern Coorong really benefit)? Your staff should also be asked what are the funding and other political implications if you do not proceed with these releases of water given that they have been proposed as an SDLAM?

On an entirely different note and if you would like to get a sense of what a community planting festival is like come in an unofficial capacity to the one being co-run with BioR in partnership with your Dept on Sunday 25 June from 10 am. The planting is being done on crown land (Frahns Farm) between Callington and Monarto. As it is crown land you have a legitimate reason to be there – but just come and be part of the crowd (bring family and any children as well if you like). This will give you a feel for what might be possible on parts of Glenthorne. You can get the details on where to go and book etc on the bioR website (www.bior.org.au). If you cannot make it then log in to the social media feeds to get a sense of what happens.

All the best,

David

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