

18 APR 2018

To
The Murray-Darling Royal Commission (@mdbrc.SA)

11th April, 2018

Ref. The Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The Coorong.

Dear Commissioners,

I refer to “Get ready for a rough river ride”, the Advertiser 7/04/2018. To quote the Water Minister, the Hon. David Speirs, “there has been dredging in the Mouth “24/7” and that is not sustainable- but there is no “plan B”

If no additional freshwater becomes available for the Coorong I would like to suggest a plan ”B” for your consideration.

Constructing a number of “one way” pipelines between the sea and the Coorong, to let in fresh seawater in a number of locations during rising tide would reduce the speed of inflow through the Murray Mouth, reducing the ingress of sand. On ebb tide all outflow would be through the Murray Mouth, the higher volume and speed of the current keeping the Mouth clear of sedimentation.

Another effect would be an environmentally friendly reduction of hypersalinity in the Coorong.

After the initial cost of construction the cost of operating and maintenance would be negligible, in comparison with the cost of continuous dredging.

I am interested to discuss some additional, practical details regarding the construction, should you find this a worthwhile project.

No doubt research will be required to determine the size, number and locations of the pipelines, which could be a useful task for a University.

Tidal pipelines are already in effective use in the West Lakes and the Encounter Lakes, and similar ones could well be a solution to the missing plan “B”.

Andrew Sniedze, LMIEEE.

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