

WENTWORTH GROUP

OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

Dr Neil Byron, Mr. Peter Cosier, Prof Tim Flannery, Prof Quentin Grafton, Dr Ronnie Harding,
Prof David Karoly, Prof Hugh Possingham FAA, Mr. Robert Purves AM, Dr Denis Saunders AM,
Prof Bruce Thom AM FTSE FIAG, Dr John Williams, Prof Mike Young FASSA.

Mr Craig Knowles
Chair
Murray Darling Basin Authority

4th May, 2011

Dear Craig

I am writing to confirm that recent circumstances regarding the review of the new science that will be used to form the basis of the draft Basin Plan means that I am unable to continue to participate on the Basin Testing Committee.

The reason for my resignation is the manner in which the Authority has treated and subsequently rejected the proposal of the Wentworth Group on the 8th April to establish an Independent Science Accreditation Panel. The Wentworth Group is not prepared to participate in processes that in our opinion are not based on good science.

We have been told in meetings over the past weeks that there are major changes proposed to the scientific methodology in the draft Basin Plan, and that those changes in methodology will result in a significant reduction in the environmental flow requirements to those described in the Guide to the Basin Plan released late last year.

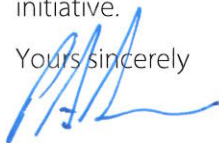
These reductions, we were informed, are a result of a change in methodology from an end of systems flow model to a hydrological assets model.

New science that is not subject to an independent, transparent peer review, is not science; it is simply the interpretation of science by a government Authority.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity through the allocation of \$10 billion to restore the health of the river systems across the Murray Darling Basin, whilst at the same time using water reform as an opportunity to modernise irrigated agriculture in Australia.

I do wish you and your Committee well in your deliberations, and notwithstanding my resignation from your Committee, we stand willing to contribute to this historically important initiative.

Yours sincerely



Peter Cosier