

As an irrigator based around Cohuna in GMW zone 7, I would like to make a submission to The Productivity Commission Review of MDBP.

When the MDBP (Plan) was conceived there was no consideration given to the biodiversity and habitat that irrigation farms provided to native fauna, as well as supplying jobs and helping to maintain communities. Subsequently there is no baseline to judge change for better or worse on this habitat.

For a myriad of reasons over 200 gigalitres have left our district which is having a large impact on biodiversity on farms. Despite the decline in irrigation, in our area the remaining irrigation country still provides a habitat to huge number of diverse birds and reptiles. Even on my property I have observed numbers too numerous to count of wetland birds foraging. A substantial amount of the water that has left the district has gone to the Environmental Water Holder to help achieve biodiversity and River Health, there is a paradox in this outcome.

The present Minister is hellbent on taking more water from the productive pool to support her efforts to complete the Plan on time and in full, which will have repercussions on our biodiversity, communities, and jobs.