

To The Commissioner.

Mr Bret Walker SC.

Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission.

I submit my life's work (Google Landsmanship and "Shrink the Desert") for the consideration of the Royal commission in relation to their investigations into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

It is not possible to fix a problem with the same thinking that created it. So I will break with the accepted protocols of the current bureaucratic system and address my paper as a submission to the current commissioner directly and to all Australians indirectly through every form of 'the media'.

Sir.

To be frank, The Murray-Darling Basin Plan is a non-working ridiculous error of people's judgment, 'a folly' based upon 'human-logic' (not 'eco-logic') and the thinking, arrogance, beliefs and ignorance of our own individual species - people. The M-DBP does not work, nor can it work because Nature is the authority in charge of ecosystem function and does not approve of human control of self-organising natural systems. It is modern day people's thinking, judgement and learning that is deficient here, living confused in 'people made' dysfunctional landscapes without ecological understanding.

In our modern day, The Murray/Darling catchment ecosystem is a manmade dysfunctional land and water system and people generally yet do not have the capacity to repair ecosystems, but Nature of itself still has the capacity to self-repair the 'skin of the Earth' (bio-sphere), as does the human body as an ecosystem, 'self-repair' its own skin.

Western culture has collapsed from the erroneous beliefs people have imagined for themselves as self-deceit.

Science is the "study and understanding of repeatable natural phenomena". Science is and can only be a study and explanation of Nature working as correctly interoperated truth. Otherwise human opinion and human art become pseudo-science or industrial-science, etc, instead.

Natural phenomena is counterintuitive to human logic. Most people do not realise that they view Nature working as the reverse of reality (like looking in a mirror). We need to mentally become the mirror reflecting Nature's processes so our human mind is able to learn by experience and mindfulness to reverse the current view of Nature working, to understand how to think about and work with Nature while living as an integral part of the whole biological Nature of Earth.

It is critical at this time when and where so many things are wrong with our land, water, food, health, wealth and peaceful way of life in the Western world, that all Australians need to reverse their way of thinking to reverse the function of their land and water systems. Reverse of people's thinking generally is unlikely to happen any time soon so the decay and immediate collapse of our eco-system, education system, financial system and political system cannot now be averted. Decay and extinction of organism is irreversible but future self-replacing organisms are still renewable in many diverse forms, including people.

When will people stop learning only from people and start learning only from Nature.

The study of Ecological Science shows that pollution of air and water is really the absence of vegetation to filter the streams of air and water. Just as darkness really, is the absence of light. Reductions in vegetation density on Earth in this evolutionary era, is manmade where ever people live, directly linked to the breaking of nutrient/mineral/water cycles (natural processes). When we study the natural ecology in the field, we study true science, taught by Nature, not people.

To anyone with a deep understanding of the natural ecology of Australia and with a life time study of natural phenomena as true Science of the function of land and water based ecosystems, The M-DBP is just another example of the collapse of Western thinking/culture/civilisation in our time, doing more of the same over time and expecting

a different result. Ten thousand years is long enough to experiment with the contrasts between human habitat building and Nature habitat building.

The vast majority of people who live in manmade city/urban environments for many generations do not realise that they lose their Nature consciousness over time and so can no longer sense their own disconnection to the reality of natural phenomena occurring (Nature working). People in our modern day have no idea of their own ecological role in the functional ecology of the land or even appreciate the ecological roles of each and every species they live with as their companions, living community and food. Nor do modern day people understand that without human intervention the whole biological community on Earth has evolved to sustain mankind's existence. Most people think that they must work to do something to the Earth 'to make a living'. Modern day people of Western culture are still refusing to accept Nature's version of 'the facts of life'. Nor do they know how land and water work together to support life on Earth. Nature is still trying to teach people not to DO - but to learn from Nature, mentally evolve and BE. We are Human Beings not Human Doings and we as a single species, still evolving our mind are doing too much to the Nature of the Earth, without any ecological understanding.

Our ecological role as people is as 'Stewards' of Nature's living creation, not 'creators' of our own habitat as inert human art.

Nowhere in the world has any one species ever been able to successfully make decisions in relation to Nature to suit the interests of their own individual species without turning the living eco-system into a dysfunctional landscape over time. A monoculture of one dominant species is not sustainable, for each species is dependent on every other species as "Habitat in Common". No multi species habitat, --- in time equals no life on Earth.

There are some dense populations of people on Earth who have maintained their vegetation, water, wildlife and climate for more than forty centuries and we in Australia have lost what little we had in less than two centuries, without even noticing. Becoming more and more dependent on multinational corporations and the governments that they lobby, to increase supply of resources.

Science refers to land based monocultures as single specie dominant landscapes. Consider a sty of pigs, a feed lot of cattle, a paddock of sheep, a city of people, a crop of wheat, a Lucerne hay field, a pine forest or a fowl yard. A monoculture soon becomes a dysfunctional ecosystem that cannot self-resource. This is what has happened to the Murray/Darling catchment dominated by people as a single species controlling (governing) everything individually and separate to everything that Nature 'created' to work interconnectivity and together as the natural ecology. The whole Murray/Darling Basin is a dying, decaying monoculture governed by people as a single species where Nature is dispossessed of resources to maintain the nutrient/mineral/water cycle on land and in the oceans. Ditto the whole continent of Australia.

Nowhere in Nature's world do monocultures happen, in our modern evolutionary era, only people make single specie dominant dysfunctional landscapes in complete ignorance of natural systems. In earlier eras it is possible that other natural phenomena may have disrupted function, but in our era it is human influence that disrupts and it is only multiples of species together that self-repairs function.

Western cultures/societies mine and export for money, earth-gas-minerals-energy-soil-vegetation-animals-food-water and people to manufacture, build and supply all-consuming cities somewhere else, making local regional landscapes dysfunctional from loss of natural resources. All forms of EXPORT from one location to another is loss as erosion. It is this people made EROSION of resources that degrades whole biological communities that are dispossessed of their own land and resources. Our Western civilisation is based upon export of raw and manufactured resources, dispossessing people and Nature of natural resources as well as increasing deserts worldwide. Where ever whole free living biologically rich communities retain and accumulate their natural resources, their own local land and water system becomes more and more functional eco-structure, over time, everywhere on Earth.

Living organisms on Earth are only sustainable when living as an integral part of any functional "Habitat in Common" where multiples of species of microbes, plants, animals, soil, air and water are present and accumulating.

Landscape wide dysfunction relates to species loss and so the unravelling of the web of life. Landscape wide function relates to species gain and the proliferation of multiples of all regenerating living species together, with plenty of free natural resources, and as food and water for all species present where they live.

Eco-systems cannot be restored by people as a single species, it takes multiples of freely regenerating species creating habitat together as a functional community (even ecosystems as our own living bodies), all species together living- germinating-birthing-dying-decaying-regenerating and living once again as natural cycles, in every region to increase local vegetation-soil-all living species-landform and water and also to stabilise regional climate.

In the present evolutionary era, people reduce vegetation density where ever they live and break natural cycles in every way they can in complete ignorance of Nature's functional benevolence.

Climate is a regional phenomenon with multiples of species of photosynthesising/transpiring plants as the most crucial element to give regional climate stability.

People made vegetation bare surfaces urban and rural, radiate unused sunlight as heat to the passing air all day and all night developing the symptoms of Global Warming and Climate Change on Earth.

People also inadvertently induce the draining (exporting) of water and resources from dysfunctional land down ephemeral gullies and creek beds and so erode local resources and dehydrate the Earth's land mass continents, of their in-ground water. Deserts and sea-rise are the ultimate result during our time. The Murray/Darling catchment has reached this dysfunctional state, induced by the collective decisions of modern day people in our time (two hundred years). In functional landscapes most incisions (gullies) in land are 'choked' with vegetation that have the capacity to manage soil, water and climate. Vegetation 'choked' land incisions, sediment up with alluvium (deep soil deposited by water) over time and promote 'over-flow' self-watering land as it was once before becoming dysfunctional. When the valley floors 'over-flow' stream 'storm water' through multi species dense vegetation the shallow broad stream slow moving water, soaks into the soil and is retained as local in-ground water away from evaporation and maintains soil fertility, absorption and vegetation growth the whole year through. The retention of natural resources, species, soil and water, reverses the symptoms of land and climate dysfunction to function. This is self-repair of eco-system.

Without multi species of dense growing vegetation people do not have this capacity to retain their natural resources where they live.

Transpiration and shading by living photosynthesising plants on land and evaporation of ocean surfaces is the cooling/climatic system for the planet, energised by pulsed sunlight. The functional surface of the earth is governed by temperature not people. So what is 'govern—ment' to do that temperature does not?

In full sun, dense living vegetation, growing in functional landscapes shade the earth to cool it and transpire water vapour to the passing air to cool it, condensing more water locally from air, dew and rainfall. All living plant species together use all available sunlight as energy to photosynthesize, grow and manufacture food nutrients from rock, soil and water, for all microbes, plants and animals (including people) to eat as the process of making more fertile soil, wherever microbes, plants and animals live together. This is Agrarian Science (Science of the land), not agricultural science that is really not Science but is only a people induced industrial process applied to natural systems and is the most expensive rapid way, yet devised by man, to create deserts in any country.

Applied Agrarian Science based upon ecological understanding, is farming naturally, with free living plants, animals, soil, air and water together as a self-resourcing system, without artificial input. Plant/animal systems are self-organising systems so people who live on the land in whole biological communities, don't need to do so much to live, produce and increase natural resources.

Nature has already established all the rules, regulations and laws for all living organisms to live by together and people need to abide by natural processes as other living species do that have evolved with us. It is the height of ignorance for people to think they can make up their own rules and live artificially, separated from the whole biological community that supports them naturally.

The original meaning of the word farm was 'increase' or a place to increase our own food and water with a surplus over for our own animals and people.

There are some natural thinking people in Australia in our era, that have demonstrated their proven advanced knowledge and ecological skills to restore the free natural functional processes of nutrient and water cycles, who think quite differently to the people dominated mind conditioned majority of people. Natural thinking people live, think and work as Stewards of the Land with sustained effort over time. They have successfully used the free living practices of multiples of species, microbes, plants and animals together -not people dominant- to restore landscape wide function, to whole of catchment as Nature does, to once again make productive vegetated regenerative ecosystems as "Habitat in Common" where people can live too.

It is only these practical people that need to be engaged to gently influence existing whole of stream catchment landholders to restore function and regenerate species soil and water over time. They have the capacity to manage, work with, teach and guide local self-sustaining whole co-evolving biological communities to restore the whole ecosystem of Australia and "Shrink the Desert" using examples, demonstration and experiences. All people learn by doing, observing and experiencing with Nature as teacher, ruler and judge. Rural Australia is a self-organising Nature built eco-system based upon eco-logic and eco-structure, not based upon human logic and infrastructure. Continuing evolution of the human mind is still evident as we keep learning during our life time, as too is the evolution of our wonderful mixed race people and the poly cultural Australian landscape where we each live.

There is only one way to restore function and productivity to any land and water system, big or small, and that is to remove human decisions and impediments to function and reintroduce free living multiple specie plant and animal systems with Nature in charge, not people, retaining water in-ground and increasing soil and all species of vegetation, insects, animals and birds, etc., on-ground who wish to live there. The whole joint catchment of the Murray/Darling will only be restored to function ecologically when the ecosystem is self-resourcing once again with Nature in charge for human benefit, evolving further.

People dominated catchments in Australia today are dysfunctional disbursements, eroding all natural resources, accumulating nothing.

Concentrating our thinking just on water is dumbed down bureaucratic, industrial, mechanical thinking derived from not knowing enough of Nature. Local water availability is a product of a functional nutrient/water cycle, retained species, soil and water in whole of naturally hydrated stream valley ecosystem induced by vegetation density. The greater the species number and diversity the greater the function of regional landscapes. The less species the less function.

Bureaucracy and democracy extinguish each other so cannot co-exist anywhere on Earth. Bureaucratically operated commercial, religious, government and corporate institutions are unable to be modified continuously by Nature and all the people together to suit the will of the community democratically and so being self-isolated from Nature and people, bureaucracy loses touch with reality, relying only on money, technology and political argument. So in Australia today our modern mature rural communities, bureaucracy is a laughing stock at the butt of every community joke and just need to be dispensed with as an unnecessary expense. People employed by bureaucratic institutions would be more happily absorbed back into their own communities, where they have no authority, to share their efforts, skills and ideas, for they are, with erroneous non thinking ego-centric beliefs, an embarrassment even to themselves.

Mature self-reliant productive, self-resourcing Australian rural communities are more than capable of making all their own decisions, making everything they need to live and work with, funding their own enterprises and managing their own natural resources as are any families that support each other.

The simplest remedy to this massive problem of landscape wide dysfunction (desertification) is for productive rural people to stop spending money and start spending imagination and effort instead. Primary production must become just that, as the natural increase in production of resources every other activity depends upon. Without a supply of money inappropriate institutions become extinct. Nature does not respond to money spent and without money

Nature is still self-organising as before people evolved as a dominating species, still evolving further as they learn to harness Nature to support people where they live.

Nature is our servant if we are Nature's steward.

The land and water system of Australia as a self-organising living organism cannot be controlled or governed by people, money, multi-national corporations and infrastructure alone. Every rural enterprise and rural industry in Australia has been destroyed by bureaucratic intervention during my life time. I am now a successful 77 year old broad acre natural land owner/manager operating separately from but within the current norms of civilised society, guided only by Nature to apply ecology to my 'freehold' land as management, rather than applying technology to the land as management. I have a whole of lifetime learning experience from training in Science and experimentation, formally and informally, to become over time an independent Research Ecologist.

I am also very glad that an all pervading, predominant bureaucratic way of thinking is not on my land and water management team or I would go 'broke', as is a dysfunctional rural Australia under governance. (Recall the Catchment Management Authority debacle, with huge expenditure and wrought of 'the system' many people 'feathered their own nests' and many farmers lost their farm lands and livelihoods by being 'programmed to fail' through a lack of ecological understanding).

I have very little interest in being part of the current insane western culture that is consuming the surface of the Earth and unable to reverse its way of thinking or doing, while steadily becoming extinct. But I still seek to help those who wish to help themselves by self-resourcing whole communities. My family and I do this by harnessing Nature, selling locally and developing partnerships and Jackarooships on freehold land, by land share arrangements, without outside assistance or interference.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority could too---- If they knew how to 'farm' Australia's natural resources, ecologically, for the benefit of all Australians.

Farming Australia's natural resources would be a better 'PLAN' with Australia's leading landscape ecologist Professor David Goldney (Sydney/Charles Sturt University) as Chair, no commercial, corporate, government or political appointments and every existing land holder in the catchment as a 50/50 partner with Nature, regenerating their own land and water systems to increase the common wealth of the whole biological community.

I wish the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission every success in their endeavours and I thank you for your attention.

Paul Newell.