

Securing the Future of Our Basin Communities

The MRGC represents six local councils in northern Victoria. Our region:

- Produces \$8.3 billion in food annually
- Supports 16,000 jobs in agriculture and food manufacturing
- Relies heavily on irrigation, with around half of farms dependent on it

The Basin Plan is no longer delivering for Australia. Water purchases across our irrigation districts are damaging our communities and failing our environment.

Buybacks:

- Undermine food production and job security
- Increase water prices and farm risk
- Threaten long-term viability of irrigation districts
- Contribute to rising food costs for all Australians

We call on the Australian Government to

Stop Open-Market Water Buybacks - Cease harmful water purchase programs that fragment our irrigation networks and increase food production costs.

Invest in Communities - Deliver meaningful financial support for industry growth and local job creation in impacted regions – local jobs created to replace local jobs lost.

Support Co-Designed Local Projects - Back projects developed with irrigators and communities that secure both sustainable food production and better environmental outcomes.

Fund Environmental Restoration - Commit to the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Projects and SDLAM initiatives to protect our rivers and wetlands.

Partner with Victoria on Basin Planning - Work with the Victorian Government's Prospectus: Planning Our Basin Future Together, a collaborative, catchment-based plan for water recovery that balances environmental and community needs.

MRGC supports nationally coordinated water policy that:

- Secures long-term irrigation viability in northern Victoria
- Delivers real, measurable benefits for our rivers and wetlands
- Respects the voice of our communities

It's time to work with us, not against us: Together we can protect the future of our food production, our environment, and our Basin communities.

Further Information: Geoff Turner, Executive Officer, p: 0419 030 314 e: gturner@mrhc.com.au



WATER: Secure our Basin Communities' Future.

- Our region produces \$8.3 billion in food with 16,000 ag and food jobs, yet open-market buybacks slash production, hike water prices and risk our future.
- The Basin Plan is currently not delivering, for the environment, for irrigators or for our communities.
- We demand the Australian Government work with us, not against us:
halt open-market buybacks, invest in local water projects, fund environmental restoration and get back to a fair Basin Plan.

For Further Information:

www.mrgc.com.au

Contact: **Geoff Turner, Executive Officer**

gturner@mrgc.com.au

Phone: 0419 030 314

