

Independent Economic Analysis Confirms Thousands of Jobs to Go Under Basin Plan

The New South Wales Irrigators Council says independent economic analysis of the Murray Darling Basin Plan released today vindicates its claims that thousands of jobs will be lost as a result of the flawed Draft Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

The report – commissioned by a group of stakeholders in the Murrumbidgee Valley and available [here](#) – leaves the woeful economic analysis of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in tatters.

NSWIC Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson says the report, whilst limited to impacts in the Murrumbidgee Valley, exposes seriously flawed assumptions underpinning the MDBA economic modelling Basin wide.

“The MDBA analysis made three assumptions that are clearly illogical – that farmers who sell water remain in their region, that all sale proceeds remain in the region and that prices for commodities increase significantly.

“The Independent Economics study correctly identifies that these assumptions are unsupportable. Further, it identifies the economic impacts in the absence of these assumptions.

“In terms of the job numbers, the MDBA analysis claimed that employment would *increase* as a result of the Basin Plan. That’s clearly nonsense, but the MDBA stuck to it. The Independent Economics report identifies that in the South West Murrumbidgee region alone, over 2,000 jobs will be lost.

“Along with that goes a loss in real income to the region of \$194m and a 9% drop in real GDP as compared to the MDBA unsustainable assertion of an \$18m *increase* and a 1% drop in GDP.

“This independent report clearly calls into serious question the economic impact statements drawn by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. If Minister Burke is serious about claims of balance and consideration of a triple bottom line outcome, he must accept that the work done by the MDBA is utterly inadequate to achieve that. He must immediately ensure that accurate economic modelling is undertaken Basin-wide to understand the impacts that the Basin Plan – if implemented in its current form – will have.”

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