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Terry Smith
Chairman
Menindee Lakes SDLAM SAG

08/02/2021

Dear Anissa

On the 5th of February non-agency members of the Menindee SAG met at Copi Hollow to discuss the upcoming meeting proposed by the SDL project team and if the stakeholders would attend the proposed meeting on the 24th of February.

The SAG members noted the current extensive blue green algal alerts for the entire Lower Darling/Baarka River and the recent ICAC report highlighting the repeated failures of DPIE (water) to comply with its obligations under the NSW Water Management Act to prioritise the health of the river and communities downstream ahead of upstream commercial interests.

Also noted was the failure of the current water sharing plan rules to deliver worthwhile outcomes for the Lower Darling/Baarka under a low flow scenario as has recently played out.

Accordingly, the SAG resolved that the only item on the Agenda for Feb 24th meeting must be DPIE(Water) outlining how it will prioritise the Critical Water needs for the river downstream of Wilcannia to the confluence of the Murray . This must include both water quantity and water quality and must use 'deliverable outcomes' as the basis for decisions.

This presentation must be done by senior agency staff and must specify the detail as to how and when this will be implemented.

Until the issue of equitable water share for the entire Darling/Baarka is addressed, the proposed changes at Menindee will have no support from the Lower Darling community. The Community quite rightly expect the base needs of the River to be covered first.

Stakeholders will not attend any more meetings until this catastrophic flaw of the SDL project is addressed. Assessment of any option at Menindee has no validity until this is achieved.

Without water there is no project.

Sincerely

Terry Smith

Chair; Menindee Stakeholder Advisory Group