

**Submission
No 101**

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 1 February 2017

Inquiry into the Augmentation of Water Supply for Rural & Regional NSW.

I'm a Barkandji elder from Menindee on the Darling River. My submission addresses parts 1f i), g) & i).

I don't want the pipeline from the Murray at Wentworth to Broken Hill. We should fix or replace the pipeline from Menindee to Broken Hill. We need more water flowing down the river, and store water in Menindee Lakes.

Menindee Lakes was always wetlands. Lake Speculation (shallow) stayed wet through the man made drought of 2015, when all the other lakes were drained too fast. I believe they (the government) don't want to run the pipeline from Menindee because they want to mine Lake Menindee. They (exploratory companies) didn't bring their big helicopters around here (the Menindee Lake system) for so long for nothing, (airborne geophysical surveys). They (irrigators) are growing too much cotton up top, not allowing water to flow naturally. We are missing lots of smaller flows. I don't want them growing cotton here. It takes too much water. They know what happened in America from cotton growing. Too greedy. Too much money. The government wants too much money. What they done to the Darling River and the Menindee Lakes ...I can't stop swearing about it cause it makes me too wild. Our River and Menindee Lakes is worth much more than money. The government has no respect for the land, the River and the Lakes. They sit in their big offices in the cities, hundreds of miles from us and make decisions based around money money money. No respect for The River and all our birds and fish and animals that rely on the Darling and Menindee Lakes, all our wildlife. This made the Menindee township become deserted too. We get less and less water over the years since cotton growing and more dams built upstream. My old aunties and uncles have been fighting for the river for more than 30 years. They don't let the water down here, they use it or store it up there. Why spend so much money to store water here , just to let it all out when the Murray's in flood?

Aboriginals should have water rights, and should have control of environmental flows. We know the River, have lived on the river bank all our lives. We don't change our job of caring for the river, not like government workers in the city. It's even a waste of water drying a lake bed- it takes lots more water to fill a dry lake, or river bed. We know evaporation does not happen here as fast as they say, as I've been living here for over 50 years. They're up to no good. Thats all I can say.