

News Release

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SA still unfairly impacted by latest proposed Basin Plan

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) is concerned for South Australia's agricultural sustainability with the release of the 'proposed Basin Plan' by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, as the main driver towards water reform through the Murray-Darling Basin.

The SAFF believes that South Australian irrigators are still being unfairly impacted with the proposed water allocation cuts that have been put forward, and once again the Authority has failed to acknowledge South Australian irrigators for all their hard work in the past in employing the best and most efficient irrigation systems available.

The Plan states that cutbacks in water availability could result in reductions in the gross value of irrigated agricultural production in some areas of the Basin including horticulture in the South Australian Riverland. The impacts of droughts have fractured some of our small farming towns and imposed reductions could cause their demise. The flow-on economic and social impacts to the regional community could be the final nail in the coffin for irrigated food production in South Australia's food bowl.

Australia needs sustainable food producing irrigation industries and communities. If we lose this, we will lose our national food security and will then be opening the doors to cheap overseas imports. We will then be at the peril of other countries to provide our food, when they are struggling to feed their own.

The SAFF does acknowledge that the Plan is in its draft stage and modifications and improvements can be made. Through the consultation process the SAFF strongly encourages the Authority to listen to the community and make amendments to the Plan that encourages and promotes viable and sustainable irrigation industries and communities in conjunction with healthy and sustainable ecosystems, including the Lower Lakes.

The SAFF is seeking to work with other industry stakeholders so there can be a consistent state approach. The SAFF will be putting forward a submission to the Proposed Plan early next year.

-ENDS-

**For further information &
Media comment:**

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