

The Hon. Scott Morrison - PM

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

November 8, 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

On Monday the 2nd of December a large contingent of community members from the Southern Basin will be travelling to Canberra. It will include food producers, teachers, small business owners, manufacturers, sporting club volunteers and all those who make regional communities function.

We are coming to Canberra to ensure that the message is loud and clear that we are not a small group of self interested irrigators causing disruption to your government. This convoy will consist of numerous community members from throughout the entire Murray Darling Basin, including Mildura, Sunraysia, Cobar, Coonamble, the Lower Darling, the Goulburn Valley, the southern Murray and Goulburn Murray Irrigation District. These people feel abandoned, betrayed, neglected and deliberately divided by members of your Cabinet and the bureaucracy in an attempt to convince you that we should not have an issue and do not represent the majority.

The current crisis throughout the whole Murray Darling Basin is highlighting the flaws of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, along with how incompatible it is with water sharing plans and operational rules. It is absurd that the Murray is flowing over the banks in the middle of a drought while our farmers have no access to water or the ability to help provide food and fodder to protect the rest of the country. And claims that this is environmental water helping our forests are ludicrous, as local people with working knowledge of the forests will tell you.

We will be setting up a Water Embassy in Federation Mall on the afternoon of the 2nd of December and we will be holding a vigil while we wait for you to meet with a delegation from the Southern Basin Communities.

Our communities want sensible solutions and we want to work with Government, however the divide and conquer approach by your Ministers and bureaucracy has left us with no option but to call on you to lead the nation out of this mess.

Please contact Shelley Scoullar 0414 960 785 to discuss the opportunities to meet with a delegation and to address those who will have travelled hundreds of kilometres to ensure you understand how irate and disillusioned regional Australia is with the management of our most productive and precious resource.

Kind Regards,

Shelley Scoullar
On behalf
Convoy to Canberra Coordinators

Convoy to Canberra – an initiative of: Southern Riverina Irrigators, Murray Valley Private Diverters, Upper Goulburn River Catchment Association, Speak Up Campaign, Campaigners for Regional Equality, Northern Victoria Irrigators. With the support of numerous organisations and individuals across the Southern Murray Darling Basin.