

Name of Organisation	Name of respondent	Email Address	Submission Mechanism	Address	Contact phone number	Are you an individual or representing an organisation?	After reading the material, please indicate how well you understand the role of long-term diversion limit equivalent factors in determining water recovery for the basin plan	Do you believe the method for determining the factors is now more transparent and robust?	Do you feel the changes to factors are appropriate?	Please write your submission below
	Margaret McDonald	[REDACTED]	Have Your Say	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Individual		5 No	No	<p>I have been an advocate for the river systems since the ABC 4 Corners report on alleged water theft and inappropriate monitoring of constituents with power and wealth in July 2017. I have been informed of river data by ACF, river ecologists and academics from UNSW. As a Healthy River Ambassador, I teamed with another to hold the Dubbo Healthy River Rally on May 4th 2018 at which 60 people marched.</p> <p>At the time of writing, no irrigator has been sentenced for water theft and no government minister responsible for overseeing the management of the MDBA has been prosecuted or stood down. Barnaby Joyce, Federal Water Minister at the time, has resigned as Deputy Leader for inappropriate favours to a sexual partner, but not for mismanaging taxpayers' money or the river environment.</p> <p>The Macquarie Marshes, where I live, is in a desperate state. It needs more water. The Darling river and its communities are in a desperate state. It needs more water. The people of S.A. are in a desperate state. They have no artesian water and depend at 70% usage upon the water finding its way from the Murray-Darling rivers. They need more water. Their Royal Commission currently is uncovering gross negligence and deception by MDB authorities. Also revealed is that CSIRO scientists have effectively been silenced on the matter of river health.</p> <p>I have no faith in the rigour of any proposed efficiencies or Cap Factors when 70GL extra is to be taken out of the system, as passed on 9th May, when the experts that I respect say that this is the opposite of what is needed. It flies in the face of any underlying ethic which purports to place healthy rivers and their sustainability as the indisputable goal of the MDBA.</p> <p>With regard to the specifics of the Caps as they are described:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The updated set of factors do not reflect the use of best available information.</li> <li>2. The volume of floodplain harvesting extraction in the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi, Macquarie and Barwon-Darling is not included in the planning assumptions, therefore the history of all water take has been incorrectly calculated in the Northern Basin.</li> <li>3. The conclusion that too much water has been recovered for the environment in the Gwydir and Macquarie is not based on correct modelling because the volume of floodplain harvesting is not included.</li> <li>4. A different set of reliability factors are used for extractive licences than those used to calculate environmental recovery for general security and supplementary allocations.</li> <li>5. The reliability of stock &amp; domestic and town water supply has decreased under the new factors.</li> <li>6. The Sustainable Diversion Limit for each catchment should be based on ecological outcomes not on incorrect models, particularly for the management of Ramsar listed wetlands.</li> </ol>