



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC 891 Adelaide	Program :	07:00 News
Location :	Adelaide	Producer :	Mr Mark Addinall
Aired On :	13/04/2012 7:04:09 AM	Duration :	0 mins 44 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	W00048268747
Demographics :	Male 16+ 15000 ABs 10000	Female 16+ 16000 GBs 17000	
Interviewees :	Professor Richard Kingsford, Professor of Environmental Science, University of NSW		

More than 60 scientists will today release a statement claiming the Murray Darling Basin Draft Plan lacks transparency. Professor Richard Kingsford, University of NSW, says the authority has not released data backing up its proposed cut to water entitlements of 2,750 gigalitres a year. Kingsford says the MDBA has not modelled an earlier recommended target of 3,000 to 4,000 gigalitres in cuts.



broadcast clip

Station :	4BC	Program :	07:30 News
Location :	Brisbane	Producer :	
Aired On :	13/04/2012 7:32:18 AM	Duration :	0 mins 42 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	W00048268741

New Australian research from the University of NSW has found women with children live longer than those who don't.



broadcast clip

Station :	3AW	Program :	07:30 News
Location :	Melbourne	Producer :	Mr Rob Curtain
Aired On :	13/04/2012 7:33:13 AM	Duration :	0 mins 43 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	M00048268552

New University of NSW research has found women with children live longer than those without.



broadcast clip

Station :	2CC	Program :	07:00 News
Location :	Canberra	Producer :	Mr Paris Lord
Aired On :	13/04/2012 7:01:45 AM	Duration :	0 mins 43 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	W00048268475

New research by the University of NSW has found that women with children live longer than those without.



broadcast clip

Station :	Radio National	Program :	AM
Location :	Canberra	Producer :	
Aired On :	13/04/2012 7:23:16 AM	Duration :	2 mins 57 secs
Compere :	Eleanor Hall	Summary ID :	W00048268372
Demographics :	Male 16+ 4900 ABs 4300	Female 16+ 3700 GBs 5500	
Interviewees :	Richard Kingsford, environmental scientist, University of NSW		
Interviewees :	Ann Henderson-Sellers, Environmental Scientist, Macquarie University		

Richard Kingsford from the University of NSW has gathered signatures from more than 60 scientists for a statement, damning the Murray Darling Basin Plan, which calls for more transparency. The statement to be released today says the plan doesn't return enough water to ensure the river's long term health. Kingsford wants more transparency in reducing the proposed cut to entitlements from 3000 to 4000 gigitalitres, to the figure of 2750 gigitalitres. Kingsford is also concerned about the increase in ground water extraction to 2600 gigitalitres a year. Professor Ann Henderson-Sellers from Macquarie University says climate change hasn't been factored, and notes there is likely to be less rainfall and more evaporation. She says science prepared for the basin guide in 2010, factored in a 3% reduction in water due to climate change, but now that climate change understanding has been thrown out. Richard Kingsford hopes the Minister or the Murray Darling Basin Authority will change the plan before it arrives at Parliament House.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC 702 Sydney	Program :	07:00 News	
Location :	Sydney	Producer :	Mr Trevor Thompson	
Aired On :	13/04/2012 7:05:43 AM	Duration :	1 mins 07 secs	
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	S00048267874	
Demographics :	Male 16+ ABs	55000 52000	Female 16+ GBs	61000 71000
Interviewees :	Prof Richard Kingsford, Uni of NSW,			

A group of 60 scientists will today release a statement saying a proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan lacks transparency. Prof Richard Kingsford, Uni of NSW, says the authority has not released data to back up its proposed cut to water entitlements. The NSW Govt has rejected the draft Murray-Darling Basin Authority plan as blunt and simplistic. Andrew Stoner, NSW Deputy Premier, says water should be saved by improving infrastructure.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC 774 Melbourne	Program :	06:30 News
Location :	Melbourne	Producer :	
Aired On :	13/04/2012 6:32:40 AM	Duration :	0 mins 46 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	M00048267045
Demographics :	Male 16+ 60000 ABs 51000	Female 16+ 47000 GBs 56000	
Interviewees :	Richard Kingsford, Professor, University of New South Wales		

A group of scientists will release a statement today saying the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan lacks transparency. Professor Richard Kingsford from the University of New South Wales says the scientists are concerned the authority has not released data to back up its proposed cut to water entitlements.



broadcast clip

Station :	2UE	Program :	06:30 News
Location :	Sydney	Producer :	Mr Peter Brennan
Aired On :	13/04/2012 6:32:50 AM	Duration :	0 mins 43 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	S00048267056

New University of NSW research has found women with children live longer than those without.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC 666 Canberra	Program :	Early AM
Location :	Canberra	Producer :	
Aired On :	13/04/2012 6:08:19 AM	Duration :	3 mins 08 secs
Compere :	Tony Eastley	Summary ID :	W00048266710
Demographics :	Male 16+ 3300 ABs 3300	Female 16+ 5000 GBs 5200	
Interviewees :	Ann Henderson-Sellers, Environmental Scientist, Macquarie University.		
Interviewees :	Richard Kingsford, Environmental Scientist, University of NSW.		

Richard Kingsford from the University of NSW has gathered signatures from more than 60 scientists for a statement, damning the Murray Darling Basin Plan, which calls for more transparency. The statement to be released today says the plan doesn't return enough water to ensure the river's long term health. Kingsford wants more transparency in reducing the proposed cut to entitlements from 3000 to 4000 gicalitres, to the figure of 2750 gicalitres. Kingsford is also concerned about the increase in ground water extraction to 600 gicalitres a year. Professor Ann Henderson-Sellers from Macquarie University says climate change hasn't been factored, and notes there is likely to be less rainfall and more evaporation. She says science prepared for the basin guide in 2010, factored in a 3% reduction in water due to climate change, but now that climate change understanding has been thrown out. Richard Kingsford hopes the minister or the Murray Darling Basin Authority will change the plan before it arrives at Parliament House.



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Scientists slam Murray-Darling plan

EXCLUSIVE

GRAHAM LLOYD
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

RECENT floods have not solved the problems of the Murray-Darling Basin and more detail is needed if there is to be any faith in solutions put forward in the river system's draft management plan.

In a joint statement to be released today, 60 Australian scientists say the proposed Murray-Darling Basin plan falls

short of meeting all of the targets identified to protect key natural assets and ecosystem functions.

A lack of transparency in the plan makes it impossible to identify the volume of water needed to secure the long-term sustainability of the river system.

The scientists' statement is signed by leading academic staff at some of the nation's top institutions, including the University of NSW and Charles Sturt, Macquarie, Deakin and Monash universities, and comes ahead of Monday's closure of public consultation on the basin plan, which

was published late last year. Their statement comes as the NSW Coalition government will today tell the federal agency charged with saving the Murray-Darling Basin that the draft plan is unworkable without significant revisions, threatening to scupper the \$10 billion reform begun under John Howard in 2007.

The O'Farrell government questions the authority's science and argues it has failed to balance social and economic outcomes. NSW Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Primary Industries

Continued on Page 2



press clip

Scientists slam Murray-Darling plan over lack of recovery data

Continued from Page 1

Minister Katrina Hodgkinson said in a joint statement that the plan was “unacceptable in its current form”.

“The draft plan will have major impacts on our communities, and the MDBA has only provided limited information on the benefits that this massive intervention may achieve,” Mr Stoner said.

“The actions of the MDBA and the commonwealth indicate they want to push through with this proposed plan regardless of the community consequences.”

The state government argued the MDBA’s plan lacked detail and that the government had been given insufficient time to consider the authority’s proposals.

“There remains insufficient detail or justification around the volumes to be recovered, where the water will be recovered from and how it will be managed without damaging infrastructure and environmental assets and even inundating private and public lands,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

The NSW government argued all water buybacks should cease until infrastructure investments are completed, and future buybacks should be capped at 3 per cent per decade of current extraction limits for any given area.

Queensland’s Premier, Campbell Newman, said yesterday the state had “significant concerns about some of the cutbacks, in terms of water usage for people on the land in Queensland, and we won’t be agreeing to anything until we’ve had time to actually assess what those actually are.”

The Victorian government said last week that it would not support the draft basin plan in its current form, either.

The scientists’ spokesman, Richard Kingsford, director of Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre, at the University of NSW,

said: “This is one of Australia’s most important environmental and economic initiatives; we owe it to our future generations to get it right.”

The group statement said water recovery would deliver significant ecological and economic benefits and remained the centrepiece of the proposed Basin Plan.

“That the water volume required for recovery is highly contentious must not be allowed to outweigh the reality of Murray-Darling crisis or reduce the urgency for action,” the statement said.

“There remains insufficient detail or justification around the volumes to be recovered”

KATRINA HODGKINSON
NSW PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER

Professor Kingsford said that, among the shortcomings of the draft plan, the potential impact of increased groundwater use was of particular concern.

“We simply don’t know enough about it to rule out the potential danger of dipping into the very flows that provide base flows for the rivers,” Professor Kingsford said.

He said increasing environmental flows was not simply about restoring the environment but also the economies of the Murray-Darling Basin that delivered benefits measured in the billions of dollars, as recently demonstrated by a CSIRO study.

The statement from the scientists said the proposed plan was flawed because it was based solely on historical data and failed to take into account future climatic changes. This was despite “unequivocal evidence that global

temperatures are rising”, which will lead to corresponding changes in rainfall, evaporation and stream run-off patterns.

The statement said the report took insufficient account of likely increases in groundwater extraction, estimated to be as high as 2600GL a year.

“Groundwater and surface-water resources should be managed together, given that groundwater often underpins surface water flows,” the statement says.

The scientists said they acknowledged the “significant challenges” faced by the federal government in implementing the plan.

But they say that, unless key issues were addressed, the current volume of water proposed for return to the river system might not be enough to meet many of the environmental targets identified in modelling by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and state agencies.

“This is really the centrepiece of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and, unfortunately, there is a general lack of transparency about what other volumes of water might or might not achieve,” Professor Kingsford said.

The scientists confirmed their support for a basin plan as the means of co-ordinating management of the river system.

They emphasised that recent floods had not solved the long-term problem for the basin.

“The most recent flooding has got us through but the Murray-Darling system is still over allocated,” Professor Kingsford said.

“The flooding saved the lower lakes and a lot of the wetlands. But Australia is a continent of extremes and we will certainly see another extended drought.”

The long-term record showed that flooding such as that in recent years occurred every 30 years on average.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING:
AMOS AIKMAN