

COPY

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R E Looney

P O Box 194

Manildra 2879 NSW

Correspondence to

PM Albanese

Janina Pliberski

Roy Butler

Helmi Dalton

I am 80 yrs old, have lived on the river all my life.

In the 1956 flood I was about 14. We all swam in the water & went fishing.

I left school & became a shearer, shearing at properties along the river.

In the seventies I bought a property on the river at Manildra. In 1976 a big flood came. I put a bank around the property. I patrolled the bank for three months.

There was no dead fish or smell to the water.

In the early eighties we had a drought & the lakes went dry. Even though there was not much water, there was no dead fish & no stink to the water.

When the drought broke the Government brought out the Sunset Water Rights.

THIS WAS THE LAST WATER EVER TO BE TAKEN FROM THE RIVER

My children grew up in Manildra in the seventies & eighties & went to Manildra School. The river water came straight from the river to the bubblers to the school. No filtration. No one got sick.

The town filtration system didn't start until 1985.

The big grape growers in Mildura came to Manildra & the town started to thrive. The cotton growers at Bourke wanted water but were too late for a licence.

The people agreed that on a big river flood like 1956 & 1976 that it wouldn't hurt for them to extract water. They weren't satisfied with that

& when you get rich people & corrupt politicians anything can happen.

Even though I couldn't get a licence the Govt. handed licences out to the cotton growers.

People on the river knew that once the water was taken from the river, the river would gradually die.

All over the world they have taken water from the top of the rivers & places like the Aral Sea.

People died & babies were deformed from drinking the water. There has been a video made of the

Aral Sea - have a look at it because that is what we are in for.

In the nineties the river started to deteriorate

Vines were starting to die. When the water was laying in the irrigation pipes for about a week the water started to stink.

In the late nineties the growers from Mildura started to pull out because the water quality wasn't good enough.

Even if we had a small flush down the river the quality of the water didn't improve.

Before the cotton we were getting a major flood every 20 years.

Since they have been taking the water at the top of the river we have gone for nearly fifty years without a major flood. The quality of the water in this flood is killing fish & people can't wash in it, let alone drink or swim in it.

Politicians are the ones responsible for this.

They corruptly handed out the licences which are illegal. If this is allowed to continue people will get sick & perhaps die as it happened overseas.

As the Minister for water you will be held responsible for anybody that gets sick or dies.

The Prime Minister said he was going to govern for everybody. Even though there is only a few of us at the bottom of the river we deserve to be able to live a good life.

A copy of this letter will remain in Memindee  
Enclosed is a copy from a mine magazine  
showing how recreation on the lakes was  
thriving in good water. This is not possible in  
the stinking water we have now  
We will send a copy of this letter to the  
Prime Minister Anthony Albanese  
Independent Helen Dalton  
Premier Chris Minns (delivered the copy while in  
Memindee

Yours sincerely  
Labour supporter

Rob Loony