

Alan Gale

From: Robert Bosch <sparks.3@bigpond.com>
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To: Fish Deaths Inquiry
Subject: Menindee fish kill submission

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Review Feb-Mar 2023 Fish killy Menindee

Robert Bosch President West Darling Fishing Club

In the late 60s early 70s the Darling River started to change with the introduction of European CARP and the start of the growing of Cotton in the upper reaches of the river.

The Desecration of the flood plain and surrounding countryside has left this area devoid of the filters (cane grass, Mitchell grass spear grass gum trees box gums) and all the other natural scrub.

We have now Irrigators who use some of the most polluting chemicals known to man in the growing of Cotton (insecticides, pesticides, and the worst of all Defoliants) which cause the likes of Blue Green algae to grow more intensely and reduce the Oxygen content in the water.

The over allocation of water and Flood Plain Harvesting have not helped.

The NSW government and the Australian government will be held accountable for the DEATH of the Darling River and this is not far away, one more Fish Kill could do it (Will you be proud of this)

The European Carp have destroyed the Silver Perch and the Ell Tail Catfish.

They make up 80% of the Bio Mass of the River which also depletes the river of Oxygen.

They have depleted the river of Native Vegetation and keep the river Turbid which also depletes the water of Oxygen.

How much more Damage are we going to inflict on this river before we destroy it altogether. I'm

The Aborigines have lived along its banks for 10s of thousands of years and managed it perfectly.

We have been here for 250 years and almost destroyed it.

The Americans banned Cotton years ago from the upper reaches of the Mississippi and now only grow it in the lower delta.

I have fished and Camped along its banks for 65 years and I can remember I had a cup in my boat when I was thirsty I would drink the water from the river I certainly wouldn't do that today.

The changes I have witnessed are disgraceful.

It brakes my heart to see such a Majestic River die in this way.

We have to reverse this now not in five or ten years time but now.

It's a scary thought when you read what the scientists who are studying Barwon/Darling River and make a prediction that is (the Aquatic Ecological Community in the Natural Drainage of the lowland Catchment of the Barwon -Darling River is likely to become extinct in nature, unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival cease to operate)

If that doesn't jolt the brains of the Politicians then nothing ever will.

The other important thing is connectivity of Migration of Native Fish and that is something we don't have because the Main Weir and Block Dam area is the end of the River. We are in desperate need of a Fish Ladder so that the Native Fish can continue on up the river.

If this problem continues any longer and we don't do something to reverse it we will lose an Iconic part of Australia.

I would love to pass on to my Grandchildren a River that I once knew.

Yours sincerely Robert Bosch

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Sent from my iPad