

## WAKOOL RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Chairman  
Mr John Lolicato  
"Whymoul"  
Barham NSW 2732

11<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Deputy Director-General  
Department of Water & Energy  
512 Dean Street,  
Albury. 2640

Dear David,

We write to notify you of a critical situation in the upper-most section of the Wakool River immediately at the off-take from the Edward River, 7 kilometres west of Deniliquin.

This problem of a depleted and zero stock and domestic flow in this section of the Wakool is directly related to maintenance and senior management.. It is emphasized that there is water available for stock and domestic flows in the Murray Valley at present.

Points to consider,

- The entrance to the Wakool from the Edward River need to be de-silted immediately
- Water flow from the Wakool entrance to the Regulator/Weir is restricted by fallen trees and sandbars.
- Approximately 300 meters downstream from the Weir, Phragmitis and debris are severely restricting the water flow.
- The timing of the limited stock and domestic flows introduced for the last two seasons have commenced around the 16<sup>th</sup> December. This is at a time of extreme evaporation and subsequent high losses and it is recommended that the stock and domestic flow be started in September.
- Native fish and a local colony of Platypus are now extinct not from a lack of oxygen in the water but simply from NO WATER.
- It is now over 3 years since a section of this river has had any water at all for any stock and domestic and environmental benefit.
- Lack of a continuous Stock and Domestic flow in the river has caused an excessive germination of Red Gum suckers.

A continuous Stock and Domestic flow could be easier to manage in this section of the Wakool River if State Water were to undertake a program of regular maintenance at the start of the river.

Yours sincerely,

John Lolicato  
Chairman

c.c. George Warne,