

WAKOOL RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Chairman
Mr John Lolicato
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30th March 2009.

Executive Officer
Murray Darling Basin Authority
Mr Rob Freeman
GPO Box 409
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Rob,

First of all may I once again sincerely thank you and your staff for receiving our recent delegation and generously giving of your time to hear our concerns and issues revolving around the Wakool River system.

Last April I sent a letter to your predecessor Wendy Craik that we did not receive a written response to. Now that the Authority has taken over, our organisation would appreciate a response to that letter.

While I have the opportunity our group would like to invite you and your staff to our region to see first hand our unique and diverse river system. As you are aware the Wakool River system is a major ana branch of the Murray River that has been recognised as having high ecological value. Previous and recent baseline fish surveys have confirmed anecdotal evidence that the system is the most significant breeding and refuge area for native fish of the entire Murray Darling basin. As was highlighted in the Living Murray fact sheet-Watering the Wakool, "without an environmental water allocation local extinctions of some fish and water birds become increasingly likely, as the river pools evaporate and become increasingly saline".

Rob, we would appreciate the opportunity to show you around, or as a 'less- time' consuming option, be the guest speaker at a public meeting to give our community the opportunity to understand the role of the new Authority and to get an update on other issues such as the Living Murray. The suggested venue would be at Barham which is uniquely situated on the NSW-Victorian border approximately middle the length of the Murray.

Yours sincerely,

John Lolicato
Chairman WRA

P.S. The day we returned from our Canberra meeting I was devastated to find continuing mass fish deaths of which I will attach some photos.

