

13. Water storage - note diversion channel from river at bottom left and river bed downstream at right





14. Diversion channel from Balonne Minor for Cubbie  
a few kilometres east of the Culgoa diversion



15. Acres of irrigated wheat and storage ponds



16. Acres of irrigated wheat and storage ponds.

## **Recommendations**

More thorough and extensive research on the continued viability and health of the river system from headwaters to river mouth is vital to establishing the river's true capacity and subsequent sustainable extraction levels.

Given the uncertain nature of inflows and the projected effects of climate change on inflows and water quality, it is apparent that management practices in the past were based on the assumption that there would always be plenty of water and are therefore completely inadequate to ensure the river remains viable in the future.

It is apparent that government policies in the eastern states have been both inadequate and monitoring of those regulations has been grossly insufficient to guarantee any lasting outcome.

Lack of accurate measurement of extractions, storage efficiencies and subsequent irrigation pumping quantities has allowed significant waste and illegal diversion to go unchecked.

We must continue to press for a full audit of the entire river system including its tributaries to clearly establish the limitations of the resource.

Accurate metering of diversions at the point of extraction as well as pumping from holding storages will facilitate better calculation of effectiveness of storage and distribution leading to improved efficiencies in water use. It also allows for identification of illegal diversions and earthworks.

All river basin activity is dependent on healthy, flowing rivers. Greater communication and information exchange across the border is required to ensure that decisions are based on facts, are equitable and preserve the integrity of the entire river system.

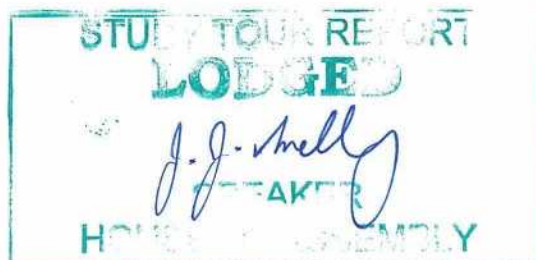
### Photo:

17. The Murray at Tooleybuc, NSW.

### **Signed**



**Adrian Pederick MP JP**  
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17. The Murray at Tooleybuc, NSW.