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## **Water users in the North-West must have their say**

Time is running out for North-West farmers to fill out the NSW Farmers' Association survey targeting the effects of permanent water reductions under the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says preliminary results of the survey highlight enormous concern about the potential impacts to the viability of affected local farms and regional communities.

"To date, survey respondents are signalling a major change to the farming landscape with many forced to either diversify, reduce their scale of production, cut back on staff or even exit agriculture altogether," Mr Armstrong said.

The NSW Farmers' Association will use the results of the survey to lobby government to ensure the social and economic impacts of the proposed MDBP are given adequate consideration.

The Murray Darling Basin covers most areas of NSW and accounts for 40 percent of Australia's agricultural production. Farmers in areas reliant on water allocations are strongly encouraged to have their say by completing this survey.

Farmers in the Murray, Macquarie Castlereagh, Namoi, Murrumbidgee, Warrego and Lachlan Valley will be affected by cuts to water allocations in the MDBP.

Local Coleambally farmer John Ward says this Plan has the potential to decimate many rural towns and is encouraging local farmers to make sure their voice is heard before it is too late.

The survey has been designed to take no longer than 10 minutes, and can be found at [www.nswfarmers.org.au/surveys/mdb](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/surveys/mdb).

The Association understands that not all farmers have access to the internet. Please note that hard copies of this survey can be obtained from the Association Member Service centre on 1300 794 000 or from local Regional Membership Coordinators.

The deadline for the survey has been extended until Monday 6 September.

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