



Murray Cod Australia Ltd

ASX:MCA

10 January 2019

Response to Media articles on Fish Deaths in the Darling River

- **Darling River fish deaths have no effect on MCA fish stocks**
- **MCA Sources water from Murrumbidgee River system and Snowy Mountains catchment not Darling River**
- **MCA controlled environment in purpose built ponds protects stocks from mortality events**

The Board at Murray Cod Australia has received a number of enquiries regarding the recent fish deaths on the Darling River and whether our fish stocks have been affected.

The Board would firstly like to extend its sympathy to the drought affected property owners and townspeople along the Darling River that have been affected by the recent fish kills in the Menindee area. There has been a lot of recent media attention on these issues and it is our understanding that the fish kills have been caused by a Low Dissolved Oxygen event associated with the rapid die off of an algal bloom along this section of the river. We hope that these distressed regions receive rainfall soon that will help return the rivers to the flows that should be expected.

As much as these events are deeply distressing to all involved they have no impact on Murray Cod Australia's production for this year or coming years. These events are isolated to the Darling River which is suffering severely from low water flows. All of MCA's production is based on the Murrumbidgee and Murray River Systems and we have sufficient allocation of high quality water (via Permanent Allocations and Temporary transfers) to ensure our production into the future. These river systems are fed from the Snowy Mountains Region of South Eastern Australia that are higher rainfall environments coupled with snow melts that makes the water supply very reliable.

Given the geographical separation of the different river systems there is no way that the events in the Darling River currently occurring will impact the supply or quality of fresh water to Murray Cod Australia's production farms.

MCA grows its fish stocks in purpose built ponds with high quality aeration systems and uses proprietary technology to monitor water quality on a daily basis. The technology and protocols employed by MCA significantly reduces the risk of fish mortality events such as those currently occurring on the Darling River.

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