

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SUPPLY NOT WHAT IT WAS

Congratulations to Peter Kenyon for an excellent opinion piece in *The Border Mail* on Saturday. I fully agree with you, every Australian should be questioning their fresh and staple food supply and security.

Australians need to understand the impact that water reform (particularly the Murray Darling Basin Plan) has had on the production of the nation's staple foods, especially annual crops such as rice, wheat and fodder for dairy.

Water reform has led to the movement of water to high-value crops which do not put value for money foods on the family table and has helped mask the overall decrease in volume of actual food available for the domestic market.

I am not convinced either that Australia has produced enough food to feed 75 million people. For the last two and a half years the most diverse and reliable food bowls across the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Goulburn Valleys have been on low or zero allocations.

For over 12 months Australia has had to import wheat and dairy to meet domestic needs of eastern Australia, now we are importing rice, when historically we have exported 80 per cent. Something is seriously wrong with Australia's staple food production, and we need to have a hard look at water wastage.

**Shelley Scoullar, Albury**