



FEDERAL POLICY: WATER

Dedicated to Joe †

We Propose to assist in the establishment of Federal funded, no catches, no blackmail, water management plans Australia wide, to ensure adequate storage and supply of water and prevent its degradation. We do not believe in the commercialisation of a God given resource resulting in the exploitation of Australians for the profit of a few.

“The ownership of water is not confined to the value of water. The transfer of the use of water is the transfer of the commercial value of the product that results from that water. Therefore the ownership of our water governs the economic viability of our economy.”

Former Federal Senator, Len Harris, One Nation.

What has the NSW Farmers Association been doing for farmers about water reforms?

Key Dates, Actions, Outcomes, Pre-February 2002 –

1999 – The NSW Farmers Association successfully defended riparian rights in a legislative debate that proposed to give the Minister for Land and Water Conservation the capacity to restrict riparian rights (now called Stock and Domestic Rights).

April 2000 – NSW Farmers Association releases “Water for Life” policy document (under Policy Documents section of the NSW Farmers Association Water Reforms website). This document is a comprehensive submission by the NSW Farmers Association on “The Water White Paper”. In formulating this policy document, extensive input/feedback was sought from, and provided by, members of the Association who are water users. The Association also engaged in considerable discussion with the NSW Irrigator’s Council and the NSW Nature Conservation Council.

Water Management Bill 2000 – The Association working in conjunction with water user associations:

- 1. Argued that in order to provide water users with resource security to enable normal business planning and increased investment certainty, the Government should issue water entitlements in perpetuity. The State Government did not support such a right to be issued in perpetuity. However, pressure from the Association and other irrigator groups resulted in the Government increasing the tenure of a water access licence from 5 years (under the *Water Act 1912*) to 15 years.**

2. Argued persuasively for water-sharing plans to have 15-year tenure. The State Government decided on 10-year tenure, however, this was substantially better than the 5 years proposed in the original Bill. The Association was disappointed that the State Government did not provide 'roll-over' provisions at the end of 10-year water-sharing plans that would have limited any reductions in water allocations.
3. Successfully defended the rights of farmers to access a portion of the average regional rainfall run-off from their land (i. e. Harvestable Rights). Hence, the 'Harvestable Rights' of farmers was carried forward unaltered under the new Bill.
4. Initially the Bill proposed to limit the volume of water that farmers could extract for stock and domestic needs (formally Riparian Rights). The Government recognised the concerns and arguments of the Association in introducing such a prescriptive provision and modified the original Bill to protect the Stock and Domestic Rights of farmers.
5. In the original Bill, the level of compensation payable to water users where there was a change in the bulk access regime within the 10 year term of a water-sharing plan was at the discretion of the Minister with concurrence from the Treasurer. The Association argued successfully that compensation should be based on the market value of any water foregone and that the Valuer- General should determine this value (not the Minister). NSW Farmers Association Water Reforms website address: [http:// www. Nsw farmers. org. au/ water reforms](http://www.Nswfarmers.org.au/water_reforms)

In June 2001, the National Farmers Federation (NFF) established a working group to address the issue of securing long-term property rights for farmers in Australia. Members of the NFF Property Rights Working Group includes:

- (1) NSW Farmers Association (Mr. Michael Keogh, General Manager, Policy)
- (2) Victorian Farmers Federation (Mr. Paul Weller, President)
- (3) AgForce Queensland (Mr. Larry Acton, President)
- (4) Cotton Australia (Mr Ralph Leutton, Program Manager, Policy and Legislation)
- (5) Pastoralists and Graziers' Association of Western Australia (Mr. Geoff Gare, Policy Manager).
- (6) The NFF President, Mr. Peter Corish, chairs this group.

The Property Rights Working Group conducts meetings/teleconferences regularly. September 2001 – The Association's Primary Report titled "Water rights and wrongs" looks at the progress that has been made in reforming water management in NSW since the 1994 Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) agreements on water.

October 2001 – Pre-Federal Election, NSW Farmers Association writes to all political candidates in the upcoming election with a questionnaire about their position on the legal recognition of property rights for farmers.

This strategy is in line with other lobbying efforts being undertaken by the NFF and other state farming organisations. This tactic placed the issue of secure, long-term property rights firmly on the Federal election agenda.

November 2001 -- Pre-Federal Election, NSW Farmers Association organised a series of public meetings (Kempsey, Young, Gunnedah, Parkes and Deniliquin) to give local voters a chance to hear the position of candidates on the vital issue of property rights for farmers.

17/ 10/ 01 -- As part of its Federal election campaign, the Association calls on all political parties to make a commitment to implement legislation that protects farmers property rights (see press release titled "Farmers define property rights" - under the Riparian Rights of farmers preserved.

NSW Farmers Association 'Water for Life' policy document submitted to the State Government. Water Management Bill 2000.

- 1. State Government increases the tenure of a water access licence from 5 (under the *Water Act 1912* and the original Bill) to 15 years.**
- 2. State Government amends the original Bill to increase the term of a water-sharing plan from 5 to 10 years.**
- 3. Harvestable Rights are carried forward unaltered into the new Act.**
- 4. Stock and Domestic Rights (formally Riparian Rights) are carried forward largely unaltered under the new Act. Under the new Act, the Minister is now able to modify the stock and domestic rights of farmers in emergency circumstances.**
- 5. Original Bill is amended to ensure that the Valuer-General, not the Minister, determines the level of compensation. The Association was disappointed that the State Government did not include a provision whereby water users suffering a loss of entitlement would be automatically compensated.**

NFF Property Rights Working Group begins the process of developing a definitive 'Property Rights Position Paper' for farmers in Australia. Primary Report, 'Water rights or wrongs' (under Policy Documents section of the NSW Farmers Association Water Reforms website).

19/ 10/ 01 -- Senator John Cherry (Australian Democrats) "*calls for the Government to properly define the obligations of rural landholders in relation to Commonwealth environment legislation and to recognise that the responsibility for environmental outcomes must be shared between Government and landholders*" (see Association press release titled "Democrats join the property rights party! - Under the Press Releases section of the Association's Water Reforms website).

WATER POLICY

One Nation believes water so important that it should have its own portfolio. As one of the world's driest continents, Australia must use its water resources wisely. The main problem is more one of unequal distribution and storage rather than shortage. We propose water management practices to provide adequate storage, combat salination and to eliminate discharge of sewerage to bay or ocean outlets. Re-use of suitably treated recycled water and the piping of it inland for use by councils and rural land for irrigation. We do not believe in the privatisation of a God given resource.

Environmental fundamentalism is driving policies that are eroding our property rights through greatly increasing the regulatory burden (Water charges and COAG) and by denying us our constitutional rights.

We oppose Agenda 21 and other illegal UN treaties including COAG and UN World Bank Water Resources Management agreements that involve the charging of farmers for rainwater that falls and is stored on their properties.

Section 100 of The Constitution: The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade or commerce, abridge the right of a state or of the residents therein to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation.

We oppose COAG management of water resources, as the focus is not on improving water supplies, but appears to be on corporatisation of the catchment areas, then to privatise them.

GREAT WATER PROJECTS (Supported by One Nation)

1. Fitzroy River: The Fitzroy's catchment area is larger than the state of Victoria; in flood the Fitzroy's volume of water is second only to the Amazon. It has an annual run-off of 8 million megalitres; by comparison, the Sydney metropolitan area has around 4 million people and uses one-half million mega litres a year.

2. Ord, Victoria, Daly Rivers: The Ord-Victoria Project could be one of the greatest irrigation projects in the world, right on the doorstep of Asia's huge and growing population centres. Water expert Prof. Lance Enderbee recommends that the Ord and Victoria be developed in combination, on a vast scale; the Daly River has potential as well.

3. Roper River: has significant development potential.

4. Flinders Nicholson and Leichhardt Rivers: would be a key river in the revised Bradfield Scheme as the Nicholson and Leichhardt Rivers would likely be as well.

5. The Reid Scheme and the Mitchell, Staaten Gilbert and Norman Rivers: In a project on the scale of the Snowy Scheme, Brisbane engineer L.B.S. Reid in the 1940s proposed a series of dams, canals and tunnels to channel the floodwaters of the Walsh, Tate, Lynd, Einasleigh and Gilbert Rivers into the Diamantina. The Mitchell, Staaten, Gilbert and Norman Rivers which now flow unused into the Gulf of Carpentaria, all have development potential.

6. The Bradfield Scheme: John Bradfield, the renowned engineer and designer of that work of art, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, conceived an idea back in 1929, to develop Australia's fertile but arid hinterland into a 'vegetable Garden of Eden' by the miracle of water conservation and irrigation. The Bradfield Scheme proposed diverting water from the Tully, Burdekin and Herbert Rivers in North Queensland, inland to the Flinders and Thompson Rivers, with residual flowing into Lake Eyre.

7. The Dawson Scheme: First proposed in the 1920s, a dam on the Dawson could be the centrepiece of a \$3 billion development project.

8. The Burnett River Scheme and Fraser Island: A dam and a series of weirs on the Burnett River would alleviate the chronic water shortages in the Bundaberg/Hervey Bay region. Fraser Island is only 200km from the headwaters of the Murray/Darling system. The island has a high annual rainfall giving it a water catchment equal to the low rainfall of the larger Darling catchment. Ground water on Fraser Island is stored in massive reserves (estimated to be around 10-20 million megalitres) within the sand mass, of which almost 6 million megalitres is above sea level.

A further 400,000 megalitres may be retained in the perched aquifers. The water from Fraser Island currently flows into the sea - just wasted. The water is so pure that it is exported as pure spring water. A scheme that is worthy of consideration has been put forward to divert this water inland and also supply Hervey Bay and Maryborough. However, according to a recent program on ABC TV, the rights to this water have been sold to Indonesia under World Heritage debt for equity.

8a. Brisbane and Gold Coast: Sewerage is also a problem as we oppose outfalls to bays and ocean. Brisbane sewerage water, after suitable treatment, could simply be piped to the Lockyer Valley for irrigation by running an additional pipe along the oil and gas pipeline way.

9. The Clarence Scheme: Diverting the upper Clarence and Nymboida (and also the Macleay River) with a flow comparable to the Snowy Mountain diversions, over the Dividing Range into the Murray-Darling Basin would open up great new irrigation projects.

10. The Murray-Darling Basin: Completely new system of irrigation for the Murray-Darling Basin which produces 40% of Australia's agriculture acreage, could double its existing \$16 billion output, much of which could be delivered by the Melbourne via Queensland proposed rail line.

11. The Franklin Dam and the Summer Rains Project: It should still be built. In 1998, Bosch Engineering P/L proposed the Summer Rains Project, a series of 48 projects across the state, which would more than double Tasmania's irrigated acreage.

12. Melbourne's chronic water shortages: could easily be resolved in the short term by using storm water and treating and reusing waste water, or in the long term, by desalination of seawater.

13. Melbourne waste water diversion: As an alternative use of Melbourne's waste and stormwater, Professor Endersbee proposes to pump it over the Great Dividing Range into the Murray Darling Basin to open up new irrigated agricultural areas.

14. North-west Victoria: Dozens of dams need urgent maintenance or upgrading; the Wimmera Mallee's open channel irrigation system should be converted to pipes to prevent water wastage and the Victorian government in 1988 proposed to double the size of the irrigation system in the north-west, to help boost the state's food export from \$4 billion p/a to \$20 billion by 2010.

15. Adelaide: like those of Melbourne and Perth, Adelaide's chronic water problems could be easily solved through desalination.

16. The Finke River: in addition to his "Bradfield", Dr Bradfield also proposed a Central Australian scheme based upon a series of dams at gaps in the Mcdonnell-Musgrave Ranges to store the flood waters of the Finke and its tributaries, the channels of which flow toward Lake Eyre.

17. Esperance to Kalgoorlie: United Utilities Australia has proposed to desalinate seawater off Esperance and pipe it to Kalgoorlie-Boulder to solve the region's water shortage, a proposal most effectively done by desalination.

18. Perth Wheat Belt: In the short term, if desalinated seawater were pumped from Esperance to Kalgoorlie, this would enable the water now pumped to Kalgoorlie in the Mundaring-Kalgoorlie pipeline to stay in the Perth area. Ultimately, Perth should expand its supplies through desalination of seawater.

These schemes would provide a huge benefit to our inland but the pressures of Globalism and Native Title are now there to obstruct any project of benefit to Australia.

SOLVING OUR SALINATION PROBLEM

If one were to listen to the greenies, or too much to the mass media, one would think that the problem was mainly caused by farmers out there drowning every field in sight. However of the two kinds of salinity,

1. Dry land, and

2. Wetland or irrigation salinity.

The latter comprises only **152,000** hectares, versus **2,180,000** hectares for dry land salinity.

Dry land salinity results from excess water draining into an underlying water table bringing salt with it, while irrigation salinity is caused by over-irrigation of farmland.

The cure for the second problem (e.g. over irrigation salinity) is an engineering one to actually solve the problem.

By re-design, rebuilding, and changed land-management practices, together with the application of new technologies, e.g. deep drainage, see report from Paul Ensor. By redesigning irrigation systems we can double the area of irrigation using the same volume of water. I.e. the Pratt Victorian irrigation project.

Most present systems of irrigation use open channels and open ditches that simply leach water down into the ground. In areas such as the Mallee, in the porous red soils, the irrigation channels and ditches virtually pour water into the ground. New systems would include sealed channels, piping and drip-irrigation etc.

Australia's salinity problems can be turned to advantage, helping to create regional industries, jobs and an improved environment. An opportunity exists to tackle salinity by extracting valuable minerals and chemicals for industry from saline ground waters and so reduce their impact on the landscape and agriculture.

Substances dissolved in our salty ground waters can be used in the making of fertilisers, light metals, plastics, industrial chemicals, oil refining, pesticides, glass, fibreglass, ceramics, bleach, soaps, detergents, dyes, inks, sewerage treatment, sugar refining, alcohol brewing etc. Ordinary salt can be crystallised out of ground water by evaporation then used to make chlorine, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, sodium metal, soda ash, sodium bicarbonate and table salt. Among these are substances that can be used in the processing of titanium and zirconia. Once the salt is removed, the water, known as "bittern", still contains magnesium, potassium, sulfates, boron, strontium, bromine, iodine and other useful compounds. The mineral sands also contain titanium.

Salination is a valuable asset. the Murray-Darling salt could be worth \$200 million a year; also the basin may become the site of literally a titanic mineral development. The basin's ancient sediments are yielding mineral sands already worth \$13 billion and the value is rising steadily. With all this at stake it's easy to understand why our coalition governments and others with vested interests push salination in an attempt to shut down these valuable industries.

The Murray River has long suffered due to siltation at its mouth restricting its flow to the sea. We suggest a complete engineering feasibility study of the best way to resolve this so improving the flow and allowing the river to cleanse itself. This proposal has been around for many years, as far back as prior WW II and the following report now proves it is the answer to the problem. Prediction of deteriorating water quality in the Murray has not been realised, as according to Murray Darling Basin Commission data over the last 20 years, it is clear that the trend of reducing salinity levels has continued. Water quality is improving at Morgan.

* 10/10/01 Report from Paul Ensor of Albany WA that Narembeen WA farmer John Hall has experimented and overcome the salination problems and is rejuvenating his property. He has recovered 130 acres of prior saline land with deep drainage and last year it produced a barley crop of 10 bags per acre. It also solved the problem of the flooding that the nearby Narembeen Hotel had with its cellar. This channel carries 17,000 kilo/litres of water daily with no rainfall to speak of and flows to a salt lake that has now recovered to a point that it now has fish in it.

All this is due to one man's private effort, proving that deep drainage is the answer to salination. Forget all the other theories, the prime rule for any agriculture, wet or dry land is to have adequate drainage, above and below ground. Water, if it remains static, goes sour and trouble will result sooner or later. This is the cause of the salination problem in many of our coastal and inland river systems. The problem in most cases is a simple mechanical engineering one that with modern earthmoving equipment is easily rectified.

One Nation supports such proposals. We believe in real initiatives to improve our water supplies, quality and eliminate pollution and salinity.

BACKGROUND BRIEFING: WATER

Water comes under the control of the Commonwealth Government's Department of Natural Resources. One Nation believes that along with Energy, these items are so important that they should each be given a portfolio.

Australians consume more than 14,600 million cubic metres of water a year - equivalent to over 30 times the capacity of Sydney Harbour. Over 70% of this is used for irrigation. A further 21% goes to urban and industrial uses and the remaining 9% to other rural activities. Water is crucial to Australia's natural and economic wealth. It is the basis of one of our largest industries, accounting for about \$90 billion of infrastructure investment and contributing some \$6 billion in annual revenues through irrigated agriculture production. This is about 25% of all Australia's agriculture production.

Many of Australia's rivers have highly variable flows. Droughts and floods are common, if not frequent, phenomena. The high variability of flows has led us to extensively develop our rivers and ground water resources for irrigated agriculture and domestic water supplies.

Indeed, our rivers and ground water resources played a major role in the early settlement and development of Australia, often determining the location and viability of population centres and areas of agriculture production.

After World War II, in an attempt to further ensure the reliable water supply for domestic and irrigation purposes and to "drought-proof" Australia, a massive nationwide program of dam building took place. We now have more than 300 large dams. Use of ground water has also grown significantly since World War II and we now have more than 500,000 wells and a ground water asset base valued at \$6.5 billion. In recent years the interdependence between ground water and the broader natural resource base has been increasingly recognised. **Disturbingly, the emphases of government policy are moving away from further development.**

By adopting UN treaties, they have found that water resources can be managed not only to prevent degradation, but as a means of revenue and exploitation. A typical example was the Franklin Dam and the Summer Rains Project in Tasmania, which was halted by Bob Hawke.

This destroyed the Tasmanian economy at an estimated ongoing cost to every Australian of \$500 pa.

Under Australia's federal system of government, responsibility for natural resource management rests with the states and territories. However, all governments, including the Commonwealth, recognised that with coordinated action they could manage our water resources. As a result, in 1994, through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), they developed a national policy to manage and exploit our water resources to be implemented by the year 2001.

The key elements of the package are:

- ✓ **All water pricing is to be based on the principal of full cost recovery and transparency of cross subsidies;**
- ✓ **Any future new investment in irrigation schemes, or extensions to existing schemes, are to be undertaken only after appraisal indicates it is economically viable and ecologically sustainable;**
- ✓ **State and Territory Governments, through relevant agencies, are to implement comprehensive systems of water allocations or entitlements which are to be backed by the separation of water property rights from land and include clear specifications of entitlements in terms of ownership, volume, reliability, transferability and if appropriate, quality;**

- ✓ The formal determination of water allocations or entitlements, including allocations for the environment as a legitimate user of water;
- ✓ Trading, including cross border sales, of water allocations and entitlements within the social or physical and ecological constraints of catchments;
- ✓ An integrated catchment management approach to water resource management is adopted.
- ✓ The separation, as far as possible, of resource management and regulatory roles of government from water service provision;
- ✓ Greater responsibility at the local level for the management of water resources;
- ✓ Greater public education about water use and consultation in the implementation of water reforms;
- ✓ Appropriate research into water use efficiency technologies and related areas. Sounds like Big Brother again but to enforce it they have even launched a new spy satellite. The London Stock Exchange has begun to trade water as a commodity on the futures market. This means that the rain that falls on your property is no longer free. In fact you are limited to 10% of what falls on your land. One raindrop in ten is yours; the rest belongs to the UN. Yes the UN legally controls God's rain and the multinationals will take control. Already they are charging 6 cents a litre for rainwater. Like fuel, they will increase prices and when you can no longer afford to pay, they will resume your property. Don't expect the current government to come to your assistance, as they are already a party to the deal.

United Nations approved document, Agenda 21, shows clearly the origins of the recent laws enacted by State and Federal Governments. New controls have been long in the planning and now governments are enforcing the provisions of these agreements, even though many have not been ratified or approved by parliament. Primary producers are urged to reject plans by the Department of Environment to fence off waterways, rivers and creeks under a guise of conservation.

The State Labor Government was not telling primary producers the truth, nor were primary produce organisations assisting membership in any way by simply trading away inalienable riparian rights for compensation. The state government wants to control all surface and underground water across the state so it can levy charges against land holders for using their own water. Already the destruction of Queensland primary industry has begun with the Premier attempting to take over Cubbie Station. The excuse is a flawed environmental plan to control salination and increase the flow of the Darling.

The Queensland State Government has 12 Water Allocation and Management Plans (WAMPs). The Wamp for Dirranbandi-St George will have a huge impact due to the region's dependency on irrigated agriculture. The farmers were issued with water licenses by the State Government 10 years ago and were compelled to adhere to license conditions in which clauses 1.001 required installation of infrastructure within two years from the date of issue. Clause 1002 requires them to beneficially use the water or risk losing the license.

They are now being told they will lose up to 60% of their formerly approved water allocation, due to Agenda 21 and based on Inaccurate Science and Methodologies from the UN and their green groups.

Over thirty years ago, licenses to take Government dam water were granted to growers in what's called the St George Irrigation Area. Resulting in more recent licenses to store excess river water in times of flood.

The Balonne River runs into the Beadmore Dam just near St George. Water allocation is the first 750 megalitres is for stock and domestic, between that level and the dam being full is for the St George Irrigation Area. Once the dam is full and overflowing the top to over 1200 megalitres a day, the irrigation licenses for storing the water kick in.

The farmers depend on this storage to get them through the dry years and have invested heavily to ensure it.

As well as cotton, St George boasts the largest table grape operation in Queensland; it too would be hard hit. Below this area the Balonne discharges into the Cato and the Narran Lakes, only reaching the Darling in major floods. Reports at the time of Australia's Centenary described this area as having great possibilities, but at that time enterprise had only been primitively pastoral.

The waters run to waste in floods. The plains bake and burn in times of drought; a few tanks have been excavated, a few dams made on the creeks, but nothing adequately to meet the terrible exigencies of a climate whose fat and lean years come almost as regular as those foretold by Joseph in Egypt.

Over one hundred years later, the farmers have invested heavily and harvested this water and proven the possibilities of the area. Now the Premier is willing to destroy all this and the future of thousands in Queensland, to pacify flawed eco-nut theories, in an attempt to retain their vote. This will not solve the salination problems, it will however destroy the Dirranbandi-St George area and cost many jobs, this is what the Premier excels in.

Water and carbon are already being traded as commodities on the futures markets and London Stock Exchange, so look out for corporate and government controls that will soon drag in billions of dollars from landowners and residents of AUSTRALIA.

WATER POLLUTION

One Nation condemns the pollution and deterioration of water quality until it adversely affects aquatic life. For anglers the main outcome of pollution is the fouling of fresh or salt water by industrial effluent and sewerage to the extent that it attacks or kills fish, destroys their food or ruins their normal habitat. But pollution has serious effects on the entire community: jeopardising health, reducing food production, menacing aquatic flora and destroying tourist attractions. We oppose it.

Aquaculture can be a profitable business, unfortunately like all industries there are those who do not obey the rules.

As an expedient solution to disposal of sewerage waste water and to pursue the fraudulent agenda 21 policy, the Queensland state government decided to construct a biomass power plant at the Rocky Point sugar mill. However due to blind political correctness important factors were over looked:

- 1. Cost recovery and running costs: Cost recovery is nil, as this is the most inefficient method to generate electricity, costs are many times more than any other method.**
- 2. The agreement did not cover the use of sewerage water to cool the plant, as when heated to steam and condensed it turns to brine and cannot be reused, farmers do not want or need it to water their cane fields. The overflow and leeching from the containment pond, is very toxic with huge amounts of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorous, which enter and pollute our waterways and sensitive marine environments of Moreton Bay, and also endanger public health.**

There is no excuse for this neglect as today's environmental tracers can be applied to a range of pollution problems including, sulphur dioxide contamination of the atmosphere, sewerage and other contaminant dispersal to river, bays and ocean outfalls. Sunfish has figures indicating that there are over three hundred thousand recreational fishermen who fish in Moreton Bay. It is estimated that they spend in the vicinity of between \$260 and \$360 million per year in the area.

They also generate over nine thousand jobs; also there is significant commercial fishing. Tourist activity should also be considered, people who boat for pleasure, or visit the islands, to swim and dive or just enjoy the beauty of the area.

Sadly this is all at risk due to pollution, siltation and neglect, fish and other marine life have become scarce, once deep waterways are now silted and stagnate, as tidal flow is restricted.

One Nation has real environmental policies, we believe in protection of our environment for Australian's and not selling out to foreign dictates. We will ensure the protection of all our waterways. We will eliminate sewerage outflows to them, ensuring that wherever possible treated waste water is directed inland for reuse in Irrigation etc, where it is needed.

This is the point on the Great Dividing Range that separates east and west flow of the waters, the west flows to the Condamine River. Gradients to this point are acceptable and there is a gap in the range at the heads, which should be suitable to pump the water over. Cost of a pipeline would be less than that so far wasted on the Rocky Point Project.

Our water and air is also under threat of poisoning from additives being added to petrol to replace lead. These are the deadly aromatics, Dimethylbenzine, Mesitylene, Toluene, Xylene, Benzene and Ethanol, which is Methyl Tertiary Butyl (MTBE). The later has now been banned as a fuel additive in California and 11 other states in the USA and a bill is before the senate for a complete ban in all states.

DESALINATION

With Australian weather and drought patterns, it may be worthwhile considering a desalination plant. This would ensure fresh water supplies to a growing population. As desalination requires large amounts of power, one way to do this is by using high technology renewable energy sources powered by either "HOT DRY ROCK" or the "ATOM". Many countries are now involved in this for an assured supply of clean water eg. Kazakhstan, India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, South Korea, Argentina, Iran, and Japan. Alternatively, "HOT DRY ROCK", seems a very attractive option. (Note: A "HDR" Plant would produce both electricity and fresh water!) ONE NATION does not however support the absurd power thirsty desalination plant as proposed by the NSW Government.

WATER SUPPLY PROPOSAL. PROJECT 3723

This proposal comes from Len McEntee, Dip. MECH. Eng., M.I.E. Aust.

"I have observed the national concern of widespread drought throughout Australia, shortage of water, artesian water, lowering of ground water levels. Rationing and taxing existing water, restricting use of farming and bores are clearly negative political measures."

Mr. McEntee plan is as follows: The building of 5 atomic safe power stations on the west coast approx. 500 Km apart on the Indian Ocean. The idea is to provide a clean electric power grid for Western Australia together with a desalination plant at each station using the Indian Ocean; power generated would also provide a pumping station and water pipeline eastward for 500km. The power generated could be used to process the great mineral belt in Western Australia, together with industrial centres to process the largest mineral belt in the world. The water desalinated could be used for reforestation, fruit and vegetables, farming irrigation, turning the Western Australian desert into paradise. Not only Western Australia would benefit. The induration of cloud vapour by forest and agriculture, plus natural evaporation would precipitate clouds carried by the west winds across Australia, to the Great Dividing Range in the Eastern States. The additional rain would form rivers, which run westerly to Lake Eyre. This project would change the climate across Australia thus increasing the environment, ecology, and population of Australia.

The aim of this project should result in:

1. **Saving on our natural water resources.**
2. **Increase the water supply to the West Australian western and central deserts.**
3. **Increase rural activity and prosperity.**
4. **process enormous mineral sites and industries, mining-plus processing enormous development of rich farmland, forests, grazing, agriculture, fruit and vegetables.**
5. **Provide continuous supplies of fresh water.**
6. **Increase rainfall and environment across Australia.**
7. **Capacity to a population of say 400% of today's 20,000,000.**

DESERT INTO PARADISE

Mr. McEntee goes on to say, "The cost would be minimal considering the climate improvement and wealth creation throughout Australia and billion dollar losses due to drought. Water will turn desert into paradise enriching the environment instead of ravaging and depleting Australia as at present. Statesmanship is required to achieve this national Australian project. There is much merit in the above proposal.

Waste Water Quality; concern has been expressed about this, with Australian developed systems it is possible to treat water to any required level or standard eg: Memcor CMF systems remove particles greater than 0.2 micrometers in size, these can be discrete particles, colloidal particles, heavy metals, faecal bacteria, algae and viruses (Attached to particulate). Numerous smaller contaminates are also reduced such as insoluble BOD and COD, phosphorus and large organic molecules. The CMF Membrane has demonstrated a remarkable ability to remove 99.9% of viruses.

Additional views

That all State and council water resources fall under the State government's Jurisdiction. That water shall continue to be a Utility of the people. Therefore shall become orientated to research and development in ways of ensuring and providing safe clean affordable drinking water. The maintenance and replacement of all pipes and fittings that are corroded, damaged or in any way faulty. The construction of levy banks, flood plains and dams in order to diminish flood damage and lead to the capture of water that would damage property.

More emphasis on suburban water capture and use. A re-think on storm water drainage. All new homes where appropriate should include the installation of a water tank connected to the guttering. Existing home-owners that participate would receive a subsidy towards the cost and installation, also receiving deductions off quarterly water rates until the cost of the tank and its installation has been redeemed.

Factories, clubs and other facilities that have a large roof surface area shall be encouraged to install large tanks and have their guttering diverted to them instead of into the storm water drains, water usage for their grounds and toilets will therefore be primarily supplied by their own rainwater tanks. Government buildings shall, ASAP, install appropriate sized tanks where-ever possible with the associated plumbing necessary being undertaken.

Approximately Every decade, large floods cause massive damage and expense. Large volumes of water are lost because of our apathy and disinterest in properly managing the environment around us. Levy banks where practical and water capture would help reduce major damage. Water could then be pumped to where it was needed.

Property owners dams, current and new, will not be threatened by illegal rain tax, and property owners will retain the existing right to utilize all the water collected as they see fit, without interference. The re-vitalisation of all public reservoirs, with regular inspection and testing, with the appropriate response made immediately. The discontinued use of fluoridation of drinking water.

Present government and bureaucracy intend to completely remove the right of water from the people, declaring it the exclusive property of government while at the same time preparing it for privatisation and listing on the stock exchange. Ian McLeod's booklet, "Who owns the water?" is an eye opener for those who remain apathetic or naive in this matter. Further to this point I dedicate this policy paper to Ian's friend Joe, who was driven to his death by the belligerent actions of a government bureaucracy.

Copies of Ian's booklet may be obtained by contacting Ian at:

cap1@halenet.com.au or www.peoplespoll.org

CONCLUSION

With government departments making inappropriate and arbitrary regulations, imposing them at will, ignoring court decisions, moving past the normal restraints of parliamentary procedure and constitutional boundaries, and finally compromising property rights, we need to consider the bigger picture:

1. Water is life. Nothing can live without it- people, animals, vegetation and such things as vehicles, electricity generation factory production etc. Obviously, control of water is control of life and society. Allocating, rationing and charging for water gives the State limitless power. Privatised water in the hands of multinationals would be worse. As soon as a resource such as water is taken away from general usage and turned into a commodity where shareholder profit becomes more important than community and individual benefit, the field is open for limitless corruption. Any claim by the state to "own" all the water is illegitimate and alien to our way of life.

Obviously when scarce, water must be shared. But this can be done without making it more expensive or taking away rights that have existed for hundreds of years. There must obviously be limits to vast irrigation schemes that monopolise water to the extent that smaller users are deprived. Riparian issues have an ancient history, and have never before involved the claim that the State owns all water.

2. Environmental arguments have their place. But they too are now used to push control agendas, riding rough-shod over individual and property rights. The result is productive citizens with their hands tied, subject to the whims of vast, impersonal departments with personnel who no longer appear to see themselves as public servants and appear accountable to no- one.
3. If we are to rescue and continue with a viable system of small-scale family farming, we must re-establish a number of principles. These are:
 - The rights that go with freehold title, including the exclusion of entry without a magistrate's warrant.
 - The right to build dams and catch water without licence or regulation
 - The right of ownership to everything that is produced on the farm without government interference.
 - The right to make any and all decisions on the use of private property that does not harm others.
4. There should be a boycott of all politicians of all parties who have sat on their hands, allowing bureaucrats and the executive to run rampant, taking the chains off limited, constitutional government, and allowing it to become "Big Brother". Just how many will it hurt before rural industry and its so-called representative organisations take a stand is anyone's guess.

Ian McLeod.

One Nation has real environmental policies, we believe in protection of our environment for Australian's and not selling out to foreign dictates.

Ref: www.memcor.com, Mining and Natural Resources and Water.
Dirranbandi Irrigators Association and St George Water Harvesters.
"Hydro Dollars the Privatisation of Water" by Susan Bryce
"Australia's Water Problems" and "Solving our Salinity Problem"
By The New Citizen and Paul Ensor.
Water Supply project proposal 3723. By LJ McEntee.
"Property Rights and Water" by Dr Jennifer Marohasy

Additional material: *Neil Turner and Ian McLeod*

Special thanks to Ian for his time and wisdom

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