

# **Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

**Questions on Notice – Tuesday, 23 October 2012  
CANBERRA, ACT**

**Inquiry into management of the Murray-Darling Basin**

| <b>Question Number</b> | <b>Page No's.</b> | <b>Witness</b>       | <b>Question asked by</b> | <b>Answered</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1                      | 10                | Macquarie University | Chair                    | 30/10/12        |

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

**Inquiry into the Management of the Murray-Darling Basin**

**Question Taken on Notice by Macquarie University**

**Hearing – Tuesday, 23 October 2012**

**Question 1**

**Dr Arakel:** At present I think there is overwhelming need for such a white paper. It is a common practice around the world. I have two or three versions that were done in America for coal seam gas over here from 2004—05.

**CHAIR:** Are they commercially in confidence or are they available?

**Dr Arakel:** They are all available.

**CHAIR:** Can you table them for us?

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### **Inquiry into the Management of the Murray-Darling Basin**

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**Dr Arakel:** At present I think there is overwhelming need for such a white paper. It is a common practice around the world. I have two or three versions that were done in America for coal seam gas over here from 2004—05.

**CHAIR:** Are they commercially in confidence or are they available?

**Dr Arakel:** They are all available.

**CHAIR:** Can you table them for us?

**Dr Arakel:** I can. A white paper or reference document or scoping document—whatever you like to call it—is a good way to bring all the parties together to understand the issues at stake because then there is less confusion and less fear with not being told what is happening. The white paper is produced by authorities in the field who will be able to not only collect and screen the information but also synthesise it and come up with a direction to go for road mapping. So a white paper finishes with some basic guidelines. It is hard to enter a national road mapping stage.

[Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee, Hansard Transcript, Tuesday, 23 October 2012, p. 10]

**Outline of Proposed Reference Document on the Australian Brine Effluents, Including a White Paper for Identifying and Prioritising National Actions and Stimulating Investment in Innovative Management Solutions**

*Proposal by Produced Water Research Centre Presented at the Meeting Held on October 23, 2012 with The Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee*

1. Detailed review of the situation (understanding of the issues)
  - Overseas experience
  - Salinity hazard risks, pollution risks, etc.
  - Legislative framework
  - Stakeholders views
  - Case studies
  
2. Definition of the context of management issues and opportunities
  - Definition of economic / environmental / community drivers
  - Total Resource Cost (TRC) study
  - Analysis of risks, liabilities and the short- and long-term value chains
  - Review of BATs (Best Available Technologies) and BMPs (Best Management Practices)
  - Identify investment incentives/opportunities
  
3. Provide a guidance framework for developing a national road map for technology base brine solutions
  - Guidance document
  - Workshops
  - Information screening
  - Website
  - Define framework for action plan (including national road mapping)
  
4. Study Report and White Paper