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Hi Tony,

There's a lot of consternation in the MIA where I live about the MDBA plan but I'm wondering has the loss of stored water by evaporation which can be 50% or more been factored in to the plan and has any thought been put in to reducing evaporation which in a study by Dr Ian Craig of the University of Southern Queensland I have read can be reduced by as much as 95%.by covering open storage.

Evaporation loss has been calculated as more than the total water consumption by the population of Australia.

In the MIA there are a lot of open irrigation channels which due to the shallowness of the water is subject to higher rates of evaporation. There has been talk for years of piping in the channels to overcome this evaporation but the cost has always turned the water management people against it but now with so much at stake it may be worth it because even if the water allocations are reduced we will still have evaporation to contend with and labour have got billions put aside so why not spend some of it on that.

I worked on the design of the Southern and Northern Regional Water pipelines in Qld, the costings on that could be used to work out a preliminary cost of piping in the MIA channels and one beneficial difference is that land won't need to be purchased to carry out the work as in Qld because the existing channel ways can be used.

And what about Lake Burley Griffin, what a waste of water that is.

Further to my comments above if this water plan causes the expected unemployment in country NSW and Vic what happens to the government plan to attract people to regional Australia.

Regards

John Moran OMIE(Aust)