

Submission No:	590
Date Received:	23-1-11
Secretary:	Sc

To whom it may concern,

I have just returned from overseas ,hence this late submission , however there was still a possibility as per our local newspaper recently.

My submission is not to regurgitate facts and figures but to remind us of some historical reasoning. The Snowy Mountains Scheme has been recognised throughout the world for its foresight and the principle was " To turn rivers and streams inland and to prevent loss to the sea, to provide water for irrigation and food , and electricity for peak loads in the cities. This being especially important," to feed the nation **ESPECIALLY IN TIME OF WAR**

We are not at war but this project brought skilled artisans in a measured manner as migrants from Europe, many of whom finally settled in those irrigated schemes they had helped to make possible. They are still here and endured many a crisis over the years with the climate, pests and diseases, **BUT NOT THE GOVERNMENT** or non resident committees who have not suffered similarly .

In this regard it is pertinent to remind ourselves of some well known expressions Viz. " There can be statistics and bloody statistics " but today replace statistics with ' Models '. In my day it was imperative that the level of significance be at the least 5% ,or better still at the 1% level, something to be relied upon. To pursue " Cause and Effect " as a fundamental principle.

To deny present day irrigators of all categories of water to a greater or lesser degree can breed inequalities, in favour of environmental flows and wetlands, is also to deny the Taxation Office of revenue! A positive income instead of a spurious environmental asset. Who is going to make up the deficit, the Fishing lobby, the Gun club re ducks etc .or what about the Companies and their share holders of the Pine Forests which reduce flows to the storages and river systems?.

Recent disastrous floods are freak but mitigation is not a new word and cannot irrigation be mitigation as well as dams, and desilting rivers as in the Rhine and thus lessen flooding ?. Should not local communities be more represented at an early stage such as in the Tennessee Valley Authority. In Namibia they advise the Minister, not the reverse so I am told. This submission is to say " It is never too late" and let the people be heard in a meaningful way. It is too late , " To close the door after the horse has bolted ". Who was it that said , " Lend me your ears!?".

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Low