

23.11.2010

The Secretary,
House of Representatives Standing committee on Regional Australia,
P.O.Box 6021,
Parliament House ,Canberra/ACT 2600

Attention Dr.Sharman Stone.

Submission No: 116
Date Received: 26/11/2010
Secretary: SL

WATER & NO FUTURE.

It has always been the role of Governments to build infrastructures that are for the future growth of the country .We now have the Federal & Victorian Governments set on destroying a large percentage of rural towns & communities.

The Victorian Government is on record as wanting to add one million people to Victorias population.They are also advertising that they are creating jobs in rural areas.

They have taken water from the country to supply the cities & have done nothing to capture water that is already available..Yes they are building a desalination plant to supply water to the city that will be a burden to all Victorians for it life.span.

Australia is not short of water,we have plenty but a percentage of it is in the wrong places.,but it is well documented how this water could be directed to the areas where it is needed.

- (a) Water can be piped from Tasmanias Lake Margaret & Lake Barrington after it has been used to drive turbines to generate electricity.
This would have been far less costly than the North South Pipeline,Desalination plant& a power station to drive it.
Five percent of the flow from these two sources would supply seventy five (75%) of Melbournes water.and the Tasmanian Government was a willing selling of the water.
- (b)The Mitchell River floods ,Sale Bairnsdale,Maffra at least once every two years.There are studies that show to put two dams on the Mitchell River they would hold more water than the existing nine dams.
Plans exist for a tunnel to divert some of this water to the Murray.Thus Melbourne & the food bowl of Australia are taken care of.for many years.
- (c)Why not capture the water that falls on Melbourne that currently flows into bay, pump it to reservoir ,treat & filter it to potable water standard
- (c)Plans have existed for over fifty years to pump some of the wet seasons flow of the Burdekin River approx three hundred (300) kilometres to rivers that commence near

(d) Blackall & all flow into the Darling River. In the wet season most of this water just rushes out to sea & is lost

(e). this is a shorter distance than pumping water Perth- Kalgoorlie

Nowhere in any of the proposal I have read or listened to is there any information about capturing or creating additional water for the future. Everything is focused on **taking away from that that already exists. that is the easy option.**

Let us examine this supposed need for extra environmental flows for the Murray /Darling Rivers.. There is ample evidence photos & documentation showing the Murray River as a series of water holes and mostly dry river beds in drought periods. People picnicking on the sandy floor, driving horse & gigs along its bed. Paddle steamers sitting & waiting for the autumn rains so they could move.

None of this has occurred since the dams were built for irrigation. There has been a continual year round flow in the Murray River. How can it be factually and truthfully argued that the river is in poor health compared to what it was prior to the dams. Or is this a greenie backed push into National & State politics. If so how does it affect them, as a large percentage of them are city based dwellers, who do not live or work in the areas under discussion.

The South Australia Government has artificially blocked the mouth of the Murray/Darling Rivers and created a large shallow artificial water lake for their own recreation purposes. with some irrigation thrown in. This lake due to the shallow depth & large area has enormous evaporation.

Has South Australia done anything to increase the supply of water in that State ie, desalination plant, bores, dams etc.

ALL I have ever heard is whinges & moans for a bigger share from the two rivers.

Let us not take away from what already exists, but let us be constructive & build for the future. Yes we can always learn to use the existing water more wisely as most of our farmers/orchardists have learnt to do over the past 10-12 years and are still learning & implementing.

Yours sincerely

W.N.CARR