

Mr. T.F. Robinson

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The Secretary.

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I am a senior citz., with no experience of irrigarion or rural matters, but wish to submit my thoughts on this very serious and wide reaching matter, that is the most beneficial and productive use of inland water.

Ibelieve that water, because it is necessary for our lives mustnot be treated as a comercial product. Water belongs to every member of the country.

It must be distributed through the community by a public owned company. that is responsibile for its quality and future distribution. The profit made through its public use should be sufficient for future expansion and maintaining water supplies. as needed.

The recent long dry years indicated the extent that the states had over extended the irrigation areas.

I bel beleive that the water both surface and artesian must be managed by an independant body answerable to the Fed. Govt, both houses once or twice per year. The independant body would hold office for 9/10 year periods, to obtain better continuinty than 4 yr.periods. The Tennessee Valley Auth. in U.S.A. may give some ideas of how they manage their syste

The Eastern states musy be prepared to pass control and management of both surface rural and artesian water for a more satisfactory use of water in the irrigation areas. It may be necessary for the area under irrigation be reduced to improve the flow in inland rivers.

Irrigators must not on sell surplus water. It must be returned to the controller for re distribution. Irrigators returning water be given a credit.

Reading articles in rural papers, I get the impression that there are businesses engaged buy and selling irrigation water. All selling water used by irrigators must be the responsibility of the central body. Water in this use is not a profit making item.

I also do not think that land which covers artesian water ~~should be~~ should be exposed to underground coal mining. At present o/s companies are investigatig the coal availability under the Liverpool Plains, N.S. with the view of developing a major coal mining industry. It will employ local labor and pay good wages, but what guarantee can any ony give that damage will not be done to the underlying water ,which is ve necessary for the western rivers.

Another reason to remove the control of eastern inland rivers is th present storage of large quantities in S. W. Qld, Viewing a talk w graziers in N.W N.S.W. near the Darling, who said they had no water : river for 12 yrs. I wonder why?

Perhaps more water supplies must be piped instead of open chanel which loose water through evaporation and soil leakage?

Every effort must be made to retain towns in the country, and even improve the facilities, we, in cities take for granted.

From the little I have found about the Tennessee Valley, it may be worth spending some time finding how the whole valley area was turned into a very liveable, productive area.

A news item today reports that exploration for gas is being conducted on the Liverpool Plains. From viewing T.V. screening properties in Q!ld. the problem of salty water ending up on the surface of properties held in pondages. Apparently creating problems for the farming activities of the property. Any area that sits over artesian water must be kept clear of any gas drilling businesses. Most of this exploring for coal gas and other minerals will go overseas, and o/s groups will benefit.

The Snowy river is a example of states not returning adequate water to a common river. Vic. and N.S.W. aparently agree with Snowy Group that it should be done, but no action.

It will be necessary to educate urban communities of the need to change their use of water, and perhaps change from using fresh water in the home swimming pool to salt water drawn from the sea.

Yours faithfully

T.F. Robinson