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SC

Dear Tony

I realise that you will get a lot of crack pot ideas however reading the Australian newspaper today and having been involved in a lot of water solutions around the world has prompted me to write to yourself.
The solution to the Murray is not to try to buy back water which is a lose lose situation for the country but to ensure more water goes into the whole Murray river system.
How do we do this without diverting another river etc?
When we design for a water storage dam we work on receiving only 10% of the rain that falls on the ground actually going into the storage facility. The remaining 90% ends up going into the ground. It takes a lot of soaking rain to saturate the ground before any water goes into the farmers dam.
If however you cover the ground with High Density Poly Etherlene (HDPE) then every drop of water that lands on the HDPE ends up running into the dam. This HDPE liner is used extensively in the mining industry for the lining of tailings dams and for water storage dams in areas where clay liners are not available.
If you line just 1 hectare of land with HDPE and you get an average yearly rainfall in that area of 300mm then you deposit 10,000 x 300 = 3,000,000 litres of runoff into the river system.
The cost for this will be ball park figure only $200,000. Cost will go down when you do larger areas.
If you work on only doing this on unproductive land where you know you will get minimum 300 mm of rain a year such as in the Eastern highlands then you have the following.

- Work that can be done by small contractors across the whole of the river system. (Let's not have another BER where only the big boys got a go.)
- Use land that will not be taken from food production.
- Cost far less than a buy back system.

If you would like to discuss further than I can be contacted

Yours faithfully
Geoff Moran.
Area Manager
CCJVPNG highlands gas project.