

15 December 2010

The Clerk Assistant (Committee)
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional
Australia
PO Box 6027
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission No:.....	348
Date Received:.....	17/12/10
Secretary:.....	SC

Dear Sir,

I wish to present the following Submission to your Committee.

Nearly all the participants in the debate regarding the supply of water in the Murray-Darling Basin have accepted that there is a **LIMITED SUPPLY** and the debate is about its **DISTRIBUTION**.

Let us consider the possibility of **GAINING WATER** to be added to supply below the Murray-Goulburn intersection. Over the last two years, Kenneth Davidson (Senior Columnist for "The Age", Melbourne) has strongly advocated the proposal for Victoria to purchase water from the Tasmanian Government (the price to be negotiated) in North West Tasmania, which could be piped under Bass Strait to the Thomson and Upper Yarra Dams.

Kenneth Davidson states (The Age 11/10/10) -
" This water can be diverted by a tunnel (already surveyed) into Eildon Dam and into the Murray via the Goulburn River. Both the Tasmanian pipeline and the tunnel from the Upper Yarra to Eildon do not require pumping. They are simple engineering tasks and involve the expenditure of no more than \$2 billion, which is less than one-third of the buy-back scheme proposed by the MDBA. This plan has the added virtue of using part of the desalination plant that must be paid for, irrespective of whether it is used or not."

SUMMARY:

Present Situation -

- (a) Limited volume of water available for Murray-Darling Basin
- (b) Claims for use of this water
 - (i) Environment
 - (ii) Irrigators
 - (iii) Town requirements

SUMMARY (continued)

Recommendations -

(a) Increase the volume of water from Tasmania - price negotiations with Tasmanian Government which now includes representatives of the Greens Party who may be more amenable to negotiation.

(b) Suggest investigation and report regarding the supply of water from Tasmania by engineers experienced in water management who would produce a cost-benefit analysis of the proposal.

May I respectfully request that the Standing Committee at least consider the above proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Alan McPhate,
M.B., B.S., FRACGP, FAMA