

SUBMISSION No.
4

Bromley Organics
Lisa Mahon

Executive Officer
ENRC
Parliament House
Spring St
East Melbourne 3002

RECEIVED
08 JUL 2008
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear sir/madam,

I believe better more efficient, environmentally friendly water options for Melbourne are available than desalination plants. Desalination plants will produce massive quantities of greenhouse gases and create pollution. A far better solution is households and businesses having water tanks. Recently I was in Docklands at the film studios where The Pacific was being filmed. The Govt. could even subsidise water tanks as a cheaper alternative to desalination. Alternatively it could legislate to make them compulsory on all new buildings. I also believe water rates should be significantly higher the more water individual houses use, so a low base rate for the first portion of water used with higher rates for additional excessive water use. *Composting toilets should be installed in all new government buildings. They could be subsidised so they became no more expensive to install than flushing toilets.*

I do not object to re-use of treated waste water although I realise an extensive public education campaign would be needed if this was going to be used for drinking water. Britain has had recycled water for many years as you will be aware. It may be better politically to use recycled water for non drinking purposes. Alternatively get bi-partisan support before trying to introduce it for drinking purposes.

Also I think ongoing water restrictions on the use of garden watering are essential although they could be refined. It is unacceptable people using water to have green lawns. I think it would be a great idea to let people have longer watering times if they used that water for food production. This would also reduce greenhouse gases given that produce such as lettuces travel on average 7000kms before being eaten by the consumer. The backyard veggie patch has a lot to be said for it. Government needs to consider its water policies in conjunction with larger issues like greenhouse gases.

Thank you for considering my views.

Regards Lisa Mahon

RIRDC Victorian Rural Woman 2008