



Executive Officer
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
or enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Melbourne Future Water Supply Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a submission to our future water.

For many years we have been running on empty with our approach to water conservation. We have made some genuine water saving steps in our household usage with rain water tanks, water saving shower heads and very informative ACF Greenhome courses.

Sadly industry is not putting in, and remains a massive user and abuser of water. Many industries like Bluescope, Esso and other mining companies continue to use water without much regard for the wastage.

This is due, in my opinion, to government allowing industry to not be held accountable, and allowing water to be available at little to no cost to big business.

I must also state that I am totally against De salination plants whether they be small or large. This will not fix the problem but will compound already serious sustainability issues. In my opinion the problem goes back to taking what is nourishment for the land and pumping it out to sea. By this I mean, sewerage plants are not what nature intended. Sewerage must be allowed to decompose naturally on the land. Whether it be by composing toilets or septic systems. We are taking what the land needs and we are pumping it into the sea thereby warming the waters and creating algae, and destroying our wetlands in the process.

You may think my ideas are radical, but just think of the ideas that we currently are using !

What nature cleansed by natural water flow and wetlands was the healthy and environmentally friendly way of replenishing the land. What we currently do, is use energy to pump what should be part of the natural land process, put this into sewerage processing plants with chemicals to remove what nature does in her own time. This is totally unnecessary. It dries up the land, removes health giving fertilisers and causes plants, trees to die. Then we call it drought.

We are wasting valuable resources by logging forests in catchment areas.

We create housing estates in high rainfall areas where used to grow vegetables with natural rainfall. Our growing processes need to be upgraded to use permaculture thereby greatly reducing evaporation on the land we are growing crops.

Whilst we are savvy with showers etc we continue to allow private swimming pools to be filled.

We have to work with nature not against her and our water problems will be greatly reduced. There will be less pressure on government with protest groups. As any gardener will tell you fight with nature and she will always win.

I hope my suggestions will be taken with the spirit of doing the right thing. We will all be judged one day. How will you like to be remembered?

Regards,

Mary Madigan