



20 August 2008

Executive Officer  
Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

**Submission to Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply**

North-South Pipeline

I disagree with this as it will take desperately needed water out of the vulnerable Murray River system. I agree with upgrading our irrigation systems to reduce water losses by evaporation and seepage for productive irrigation purposes, but believe the water saved should stay in the Murray basin.

The Thomson – Upper Yarra tunnel reduces river flows in Gippsland but the Gippsland rivers have more water to spare than the Murray Goulburn system.

Desalination Plant

I disagree with this because it is so big, expensive and Greenhouse intensive. It will also have significant environmental impacts.

I was told in a letter from Minister Holding in July 2008 “the emissions associated with the 90 MW taken from our electricity grid will be offset through the purchase of renewable energy and that the energy sourced will be in addition to the government’s current targets.” Now we hear the emissions will be “offset”. What does this mean? Planting millions more trees over the life of the plant?

It is so big and expensive it is likely to preclude expenditure on other options.

Re-use of Treated Waste Water

I think this should be given a greater priority. We hear that Goulburn in NSW, South-east Queensland and Singapore are all involved or moving in the direction of, adding properly treated sewage to drinking water supplies.

Should we not be actively researching, investigating and preparing for this as a potentially more economic and less environmentally damaging method of augmenting future supplies?

New housing estates with local treatment and recycling are a good start.

Conservation and Efficiency

We hear there are significant losses from Melbourne’s reticulation system. I support ongoing efforts to reduce these losses.

Human Adjustment

Australians are learning to live with less water. Humans are adaptable and will need to be even more adaptable in the future to cope with climate change. I support encouragement from government such as

- Increased prices for reticulated water,
- Subsidies for rain water tanks for households and industry.

Roofing

We installed a rain water tank in 2001 but soon found the water from our cement tiled roof contains fine sediment – the toilet requires frequent cleaning. I suggest people be encouraged not to use cement tiles.

*Rolain Friday*

