



Frankston City Council  
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20 August 2008

Committee Secretariat  
Environment & Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Sir

**Re: Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply**

I am writing in response to a request from the Hon. John Pandazopoulos MP, Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for a written submission to the Committee Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply.

Our submission is provided in response to the published Terms of Reference which seek comments on the relative merits of supplementing Melbourne's water supply by a variety of means.

1. Further water savings that can be achieved by increased conservation and efficiency efforts
  - Continuing the water restrictions, education campaigns and showerhead swaps have proved effective in reducing domestic water use. However, there is much more water savings yet to be captured. Water conservation is the most cost effective method for dealing with water shortage. Water restrictions should become permanent.
  - Since 2000-01 to 2007-08 financial years, Frankston City Council has reduced its water consumption by 49%. However, the financial incentive for reducing water usage was been significantly reduced due to more costs being shifted to fixed water charges away from water consumption charges. Please see Figure 1 below.



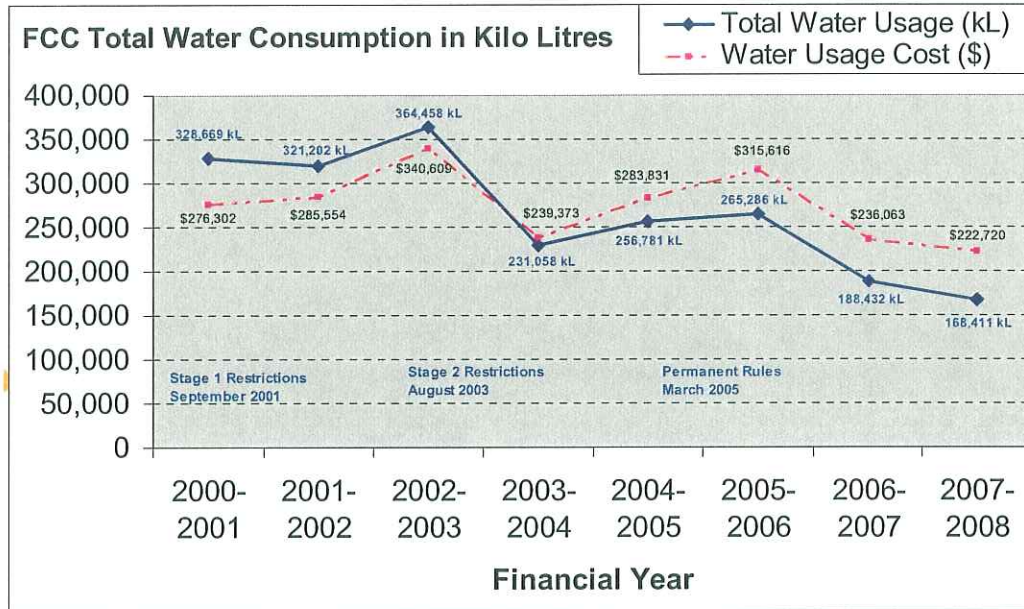


Figure 1

- Water restrictions on municipal sports fields have reduced consumption and have caused Council to plant warm season grasses and restrict the use of playing venues and playing times. Council is also installing flow restrictor valves in the showers and sinks used in sporting pavilions.
  - Special consideration should be given to further exemptions for sports fields where warm season grasses have been planted due to the potential adverse social impacts of restricted access.
  - Potable water should only be used for human consumption.
  - Loss prevention through evaporation by enclosing reservoirs and open channels is supported.
  - New houses should be required to meet minimum water and energy standards. Standards should reflect world's best practice water conservation.
2. The collection of stormwater
    - Stormwater harvesting from Council drains requires a holistic approach and should be done in concert with state agencies and catchment management authorities. The capture, treatment, storage and reticulation is complex, costly and may not provide a useful benefit e.g. water demand for an oval may exceed available storage capacity, and water quality needs careful consideration.
  3. The re-use of treated waste water
    - The provision of infrastructure to encourage the use of treated waste water should be supported by the Victorian Government.





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- Frankston Council is already engaged with SE Water in a project to use treated waste-water from the South Eastern Outfall but is required to contribute a significant capital cost and annual cost for water supplied.
  - Other stormwater harvestings schemes to collect and re-use rainwater in our sporting pavilions are also being investigated.
4. The use of groundwater
- Council currently irrigates a number of active recreation reserves using bore water. The depletion of the aquifer from over allocation is a concern. There needs to be greater understanding of the regional aquifers and their use. Council understands that many residents are tapping into bores without permits and bores are turning saline.
  - ▶ An investigation of controlled aquifer storage of stormwater or recycled water with later extraction is supported as long as environmental values are not compromised (examples in South Australia local government).
5. Small locally based desalination plants
- Water desalination is the most energy intensive method for potable water production.
  - International experience tends to support small locally based desalination plants over large, energy intensive plants which can have adverse impacts on marine environments through waste by-products.
  - The use of solar, wind and other renewable power sources for desalination plants should be encouraged.
6. Any other optional water source which appears to be appropriate
- Tanks to collect rainwater on domestic dwellings have a limited impact if they are of small capacity. Investigation of housing designs and urban designs that encourage larger on-site rainwater capture, treatment and use should be undertaken.
  - The residential "safe" use of greywater should be supported. Education and promotions campaigns should be undertaken to train households how to appropriately use this resource.
  - Investigation should be made into the rainfall distribution data over the past few years to assess metropolitan areas with high rainfall. These localities should be the focus of localised rainwater capture systems.

Yours faithfully

Ossie Martinz  
**GENERAL MANAGER - ASSETS**

