

25 August 2008



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

Reference: Submission on merits of supplementing Melbourne's water supply.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have measured the rainfall in my backyard for Melbourne Hydrology for the past 8 years. The yearly rainfall volume on my property far exceeds the amount of household water used in my household each year. I have not yet been able to afford to purchase and install a rain water tank.

Your committee's enquiry terms of the relative merits of supplementing Melbourne's water supply does not fully address the multitude of water management policies that is required to secure 'our water' for future generations.

Storm Water Infrastructure Victoria has one of the worst water recycling records in Australia. Every year million of litres of storm water is pumped out to sea by the State Government. Water tanks installations to capture the rainfall from vast roof expanses in Victoria's Primary, Secondary, Tafe, Learning Centres and Universities should be an essential infrastructure regulation for harvesting the rainfall water for water use in toilets, school community garden and sports ovals.

Our water falling in our municipality Why do we not have installation of water tanks at Fire Stations and all Municipal buildings so that the tank water can be used for fires and public gardens and parks with each municipality?

Victoria is not "Keep Australia Beautiful". Why do we not have sound water management policies that prevent the millions of tons of cigarette butts and waste packaging (at the source) that is pumped through the underground water channels into the open oceans? Polluted stormwater pouring into the ocean is a chemical toxic hazard and all Victorians and state government must take responsibility for maintaining the quality of the stormwater. Victoria needs sound water management policies for harvesting stormwater and increased recycling of industrial water.

Stalling Tactics. Victoria's immigration policy to bring in thousands and thousands of new migrants into Victoria is a contributing factor to increased demand on water reserves. The State Government's objective, to increase the migrant population in Victoria's overall population, has not been supported by strong leadership from our State Government, that would have set sound water management planning and policies in place to meet the increased water demands.

Non Adherence to State Water Management policies

Under the Managing Risks and Uncertainties guiding principle of the Sustainable Water Strategies Central Region Action to 2055, we find

A diversity of options, from conservation and efficiency to alternative sources and augmentation, should be adopted to minimise the risk of future shortfalls

Under the Greenhouse Gas Emission Neutral guiding principle of the Sustainable Water Strategies Central Region Action to 2055, we find

Lower preference is given to options that generate high volumes of greenhouse gas.

Its 'our water'. Victoria ,our 'Garden State' with the pool of intellectual professionals in the water management field, should be in the position to become world leaders in effective water management policies. Victoria does not require the weak leadership and secretive state policies that have led us blindly down the road to toxic desalination thinking and environmental destruction.

Erecting one energy guzzling desalination plant reliant on power generation is an astonishingly short visioned project.

Even more astonishing is the Victorian State government's intention to put 'our water' in PPP ownership. Magnifying the corporate ruling class power over our water bills is not a well thought out policy.

Victorians require a diversity of options, from conservation strategies and harvesting of 'our stormwater', for sound water management policies. Victorians do not require the extremely weak state government leadership that allows dictatorship on water management policies, so the PPP corporate ruling class and the desalination plant, plunder all other viable options and innovative thinking by qualified water management specialists in our state of Victoria.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission



Ms Julie Boustead