

Attachment 8

MASTER PLAN: WATER SUPPLY for SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIA

This Plan solves the water shortfall caused by climate change for S E Australia's foreseeable future by harnessing water from Tasmania's massive water run off from its Hydro Electricity System which currently flows into the Southern Ocean on Tasmania's west coast and is wasted. The water available indefinitely from this source is in excess of FOUR TIMES and a half times the total amount presently used by Melbourne. This solution is carbon neutral.

The Master Plan proposes 2 Stages.

Stage 1 MELBOURNE PLAN: Solves Melbourne, Geelong's and Central Tasmania's water crisis in one step whilst eliminating the need for the Brumby/Holding Plan [B/H Plan] for an expensive and environmentally impractical Desalination Plant and the pointless North-South Eildon Pipeline, given that the Eildon Dam is about to run out of water. The B/H Plan will also devastate Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton and Goulburn/Murray Valley residents and irrigators [orchardists & other farmers], wiping out over \$20.00 Billion of economic input plus causing massive increases in fruit and vegetable prices.

The Solution: A 30 kilometre tunnel will be built from Lake Mackintosh, on the Pieman River, so water can flow to Lake Cethana, on the Forth River. This water would be piped under Bass Strait to Cardinia Reservoir via Westernport through a 390 kilometre pipeline and easily link into Melbourne's efficient Water System. Pipe already ordered for the North-South Pipeline could be used on Cardinia Reservoir-Westernport connections. The whole water route is across Crown Land or underground.

Project Estimated Cost: Melbourne Plan is \$2.50 billion. B/H Plan is \$4.90 billion.

The technology to be used for Stage 1 has been implemented and verified in other global locations.

Water Cost: Under the Melbourne Plan people should pay the same price as now if the Federal Government meets the project cost out of the Future Fund. With the Melbourne Plan there will be a one off project cost plus the ongoing cost of purchasing water from Tasmania. However the Federal Government could ensure the Tasmanian Hydro Electricity Authority does not charge rip off prices for its water in return for supplying adequate water from the new system to the drought stricken North

Central Region of Tasmania from this initiative.

This solution contrasts dramatically with the B/H Plan. The B/H Plan will cause the cost of Melbourne water to rise by 300% because of the exorbitant cost of the two Projects: The huge energy and environmental cost of setting up and operating the Desalination Plant plus the B/H Plan will fail when Eildon Dam runs dry [it is already down to 13.00%].

Volume of Water : The Melbourne Plan will supply up to 350 GL per year to Melbourne plus additional Water needed for Tasmania. Thus totally eliminating the need for the B/H Plan.

The Future: More water can be brought on line from the same source with Stage 2 as set out below.

STAGE 2 BALLARAT, BENDIGO, GOULBURN/MURRAY VALLEYS ADELAIDE REGION:

An additional pipeline can be installed following a similar route. This extra water could be fed into the Goulburn River from Eildon Dam via Big River from a tunnel linked to the Upper Yarra Reservoir and the Thompson Dam. Water fed into the Eildon Dam and Goulburn River will provide an invaluable and much needed boost to the flow of the Murray River and the Adelaide Region thus eliminating the need for another two horrendously expensive desalination plants: One in Adelaide and another in Whyalla.

Project Cost: \$1.50 Billion. Therefore **\$1,50 Billion** less than the **\$3 Billion** proposed by the South Australian State Government. The South Australian Government's proposals need to also be scrapped.

CONCLUSION: This is a brilliant Two Stage Plan. When implemented it would surpass the Snowy Mountains Scheme environmentally and provide a great boost to the South East Australian economy whilst saving the Federal and State Governments nearly **\$4 Billion.**

This MASTER PLAN is the Vision of Geoff Croker Melbourne, Civil Engineer, prepared with the assistance of Haset Sali, Strategic Planner, born in Shepparton.

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