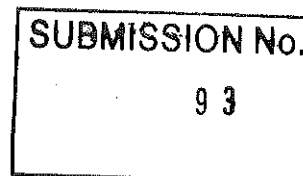


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in reply:

12 September 2008

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Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment about Melbourne's future water supply.

In looking at this question from a strategic perspective it would appear sensible to adopt a comprehensive strategy that achieves the objective of a secure water supply at consumptive levels that are acceptable to the community in the long term.

This community acceptance should be the starting point in developing such a strategy and should form the focus of pre-emptive work in looking toward the long term future.

A key element to be identified in this preliminary exercise is the willingness of the community to pay for the desired consumptive level.

A city cannot be allowed to run out of water hence the necessity for a non-climate related base supply such as desalination. The size of such supply should be sufficient to provide survival rations, albeit at stringent restriction levels.

Economics of supply dictate that the next lowest cost source of supply should progressively be introduced into the diversity of supply options within the strategy.

As the drought continues, be it climate change driven or just an aberration in our short historical rainfall record, we appear to be headed into uncharted territory. Necessity, it is said, is the mother of invention and accordingly within the development of a long term strategy we need to include provision for "blue sky" solutions (no pun intended), i.e. we need some thinking outside the square. For example, mining all end of river flows at the Yarra mouth rather than allowing flows to discharge to Port Phillip Bay.

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12 September 2008

Lower Murray Water

The comprehensive strategy also needs to facilitate individual participation and while these elements may not make economic sense they are essential to the human psyche, i.e. they are feel good projects allowing individuals to maintain lifestyle, private enjoyment and mental wellbeing.

We wish the committee well in its endeavours and hope that our comments contribute in some way to a positive outcome.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Leamon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**RON LEAMON
MANAGING DIRECTOR**