

28 September, 2011

Committee Secretary  
Select Committee on Australia's Food Processing Sector  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Boron content in water from  
Victorian Desalination Project**

The matter of the level of Boron projected to be produced by the Victorian Desalination Project has been raised in the Technical Appendices to the Environment Effects Statement for the VDP.

Boron has an adverse effect on food production, and thus **Australia's food processing sector**.

Regrettably, neither the:

- Report of the Inquiry into the Victorian Desalination Project Environment Effects Statement, by Planning Panels Victoria, 4 December 2008, or
- Victorian Desalination Project Assessment under the Environment Effects Act 1978 by the Minister for Planning, January 2009

mention Boron.

This is a significant erring and oversight by Planning Panels Victoria and the then Victorian Minister for Planning.

The cover page of the above Report and Assessment are included as attachments to this submission.

This submission is to request that the Select Committee seek to determine from **Aquasure** and the **Thiess Suez Degremont Joint Venture** (the consortium building the VDP) the precise level of Boron in the water to be produced by the VDP, considering that this water is to be used in the Melbourne and regional supply with the subsequent use for food production.

Yours faithfully,

Maurice Schinkel  
att.

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*Environment Effects Act 1978*

**VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT**

**REPORT OF THE INQUIRY**

**TO:**

**MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

**Inquiry:**

**Kathryn Mitchell – Chair**

**Nick Wimbush – Deputy Chair**

**Chris Harty - Member**

**Garth Lampe - Member**

**Greg Sharpley - Member**

**4 December 2008**

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**VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT**

**ASSESSMENT**

**under**

***ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Minister for Planning**

**January 2009**