

Secretary: *af...***RECEIVED**

19 AUG 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES  
AND FORESTRY

Dear Kay,

I see in your newsletter that you are heading the inquiry into water as a long term issue. This is timely because I have just written to the Gold Coast City Council in the last few weeks with a suggestion that they look into Sea Water Desalination as a means of ensuring sustainable water supply, particularly if this Nation is to carry more people.

Why not desalination? If the infrastructure cost is deemed to be excessive, then the following steps should be studied:

1. What is the cost of building a dam?
2. What is the cost of maintaining and purifying water from a dam?
3. What is the cost of building a desalination plant?
4. What is the cost of producing potable water from such a plant?

Bechtel Engineering could probably supply a costing on the cost of building a desalination plant and the cost of running same.

The Universities should be contacted to see if they have been studying desalination to see what they have come up with.

The State Governments should also be contacted to see what they have come up with on this subject, along with any Federal Government Departments.

Israel and Saudi Arabia use sea desalination plants with great success.

One thing is for sure, the sea is not going to dry up over night, and another thing is very uncertain, and that is the weather.

The undertaking of this project could be done with Federal, State and Local Government input and cost sharing. The end result would be a guaranteed supply of potable water to the community.

Many regards,

Leonce Kealy  
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