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The Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Environment and Heritage  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/ Madam,

#### Catchment Management

The need to develop and initiate catchment management in Australia is overdue. There is a need for a general management plan for all areas, with areas of local environmental significance outlined. If all plans were similarly designed then there would not be the confusion from one catchment area to another. If the relevant Board needed to delete or include an area, it would be easy to change one small part instead of rewriting the whole document.

The administration of the Board should not be financially detrimental to the catchment development. The Board should recognise consultants work already undertaken by many Councils and not duplicate this work. Councils and other local bodies should ensure that the Water Catchment Board has a copy of any investigations that have been done in the local area.

Local knowledge of the residents must also be accepted. Too often, the complaints of residents have been that government bodies do not accept the information supplied to them by residents. Some residents have been in the area their whole life and know how and when they are usually affected by the water.

Residents have to put up with development that Council allows that does not take into consideration the strain that the development will put on the water resources of the area. For example, a local council has allowed a vineyard development to take place within the Hills Face Zone. The Council did not require a water management plan and the groundwater in the area has been known to be decreasing for some time. Residents in nearby areas, that rely totally on groundwater for domestic use, have had days of no water during summer. If Council had taken this into consideration, stringent controls could have been

placed on the large commercial development or it could have been disallowed. The development has not adequately addressed the problem of stormwater management and a nearby creek will have stormwater from the property flow into it. The pesticides that will be used on the vines will be contained in the water and the effect of the contaminants will flow with the creek.

Areas that should be included in the Catchment Management Plan are:

Surface water resources and quality

Groundwater resources and quality

Water use surveys

Divertible resources

Water resources and population

Bores

Drill number

Drill depth

Drill date

Hundred and Section

SWL (m)

Well yield

TDS (mg/l)

pH

Permit

Casing

Full chemical analysis

Drill log

Geological log

Geophysical log

If bore is abandoned, backfilled, collapsed, plugged or operational.

Irrigation Irrigation methods

- Spray

- Surface

- Trickle

Irrigation efficiency

Storage of water for irrigation

Impacts of irrigation use

- Waterlogging

- Salinisation

- Degradation of water quality

- Changes to fluvial ecosystems

Urban use Domestic  
Commercial  
Industrial

Wastewater Sewerage treatment  
Reuse of Sewerage

Municipal reuse Domestic and Industrial

Water Conservation and recycling

Rural Uses (other than for irrigation and industrial purposes)

Quality of rural water supplies

Stormwater

Retention ponds

On-site retention

New Development Water management plan-Including total water use and stormwater management.

Previous information Collation of all previous data from Councils, local authorities, government sections and local knowledge

Recharging of aquifers needs addressing, as does the need the increasing use of sewage sludge.

The high levels of contaminants in sewage sludge and effluent can effect agriculture, horticulture, public and environmental health. The effect on crops, if they are genetically engineered, has not been fully investigated.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on catchment management and congratulate the committee on recognising the need to review this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
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