

SUBMISSION

House of Representatives
 Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries
 Enquiry into water supplies for Australia's
 Rural Industries and Communities.

Secretary: 

RECEIVED

13 MAY 2003

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STANDING COMMITTEE ON
 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
 AND FORESTRY

Secretary

Dear Sir,

Having put a submission to the House of Representatives on "So ordinary batchment management" dated 20/7/99 which was released Dec 2000, I decided to attend the most recent enquiry, when it visited Pt. Lincoln.

Little has changed since the last inquiry!

The only difference in the year 2000 was our administrators were saying water was not a problem on E.P.

How times change!

Now we are in crisis with our water supply. Our underground basins are at a critical level. Our only reservoir is too salt for a potable supply, and we have water restrictions.

We also have no water management plan, despite a Board being appointed two years ago, to administer our resource.

The Commonwealth, as well as the State Govt, are equally to blame.

The report I received in booklet form "So ordinary batchment management" 2000 was an excellent summary of the problems that exist

(3)

rainwater catchment only. It now appears rainwater catchment includes pumping all the water from the maize catchment creek (in a Water Protection Zone). It creek that adjoins the Prescribed Walls Area to the south the area where the majority of EF water is pumped from.

This vineyard has recently been granted an extension by 25 acres by local government.

If the policy for approval of this vineyard on water availability and the percentage of land allowed for irrigation per property in the catchment area is granted to every landholder (Rainfall \times area = rainwater catchment. 10% is classified as runoff. 50% can be diverted, 50% for the environment) the potential exists for 30 square kilometres of vineyards or alternatively 3750 mega litres of water for irrigation.

Yet these very same people are pleading we have run out of water!!!!

Secondly - massive dams have been constructed upstream on an adjoining property, for aesthetic purposes (200 Mg/L) across the maize catchment creek. No authority was obtained, no action has been taken because council have a discretion not to act.

Thirdly - water has been diverted, with no authority from a permanent flow forming spring (200 to 250 kilolitres per day) to an aesthetic dam. It is now proposed to install a wetland inter-tribe centre by extending the diversion.

I have been forced to take this case to the Environment Resources Development Court, because

There is no water management plan in place for the reservoir, and because of the effect it will have on my summer water supply.

One more all this is taking place in a W.P.Z. which supplements our underground reserves. All this is occurring at a time our water supply is in crisis, these developments are continuing. Other steps have been made to the Federal Government for funding to assist in overcoming our problems.

If the Federal Government is to contribute funding to give resources for water resources, one of the conditions must be that our National Board and local government put in place proper enforceable and the National Board and for accountability. Not the situation that exists on C.F.P. where none of the bodies are accountable in the management of this critical resource. Changes must be made and quickly!

John Hodge
1912 Green Park
via Of. Houston S.A. 5607

I am the person the members requested at the Pt. Hurdin meeting to submit a submission. I have enclosed documentation which shows conclusively why we have a crisis. I have must meet in my presence that deal with the mismanagement of this resource.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HELD BY THE SECRETARIAT

ATTACHMENTS TO SUBMISSION NO. 156

- Attachment A 'Greens call for water use moratorium', *Port Lincoln Times*,
11/11/2001.
- Attachment B Submission to House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Environment and Heritage inquiry into Catchment
Management.
- Attachment C Speech by Senator Lees, *Hansard* (Senate), 13 February 2002, p.
144.
- Attachment D Correspondence regarding approval of vineyard developments
by the Lower Eyre Peninsula District Council.