

SUBMISSION NO 51

**WATER FOR AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.**

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The Chairman  
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Attention Mr Ian Dundas -Secretariat.

28 August 2002  
Secretary .....  
**RECEIVED**  
30 AUG 2002  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES  
AND FORESTRY

**Submission to the Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities.**

Dear Chairman,

Over the past decade Water for Australia Pty.Ltd. has made a number submissions to State and Federal Governments and their Departments in respect to water management .  
Our company has formulated a holistic plan to make rural areas throughout Australia fully sustainable.

With respect to the terms of reference we make the following interim observations:-

- The Commonwealth must join with State Governments to build an infrastructure that will provide an adequate and sustainable supply of water in rural and regional Australia. Water for Australia has the vision and experience necessary to bring about the appropriate and necessary changes.
- It will be necessary for a Commonwealth/State alliance to put in place those policies and programs, that will underpin the stability of storage and supply of water in rural and regional Australia.
- Policy and programs will have little effect on the availability of water in times of drought. An assured water supply can only be attained with the introduction of a grid system which harvests, stores and transports water from where it is abundant to where it is needed.
- Commonwealth/State alliances must play a leading role in the development of infrastructure together with policies and programs for current and future water use in rural Australia.

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- Part of the development of the water infrastructure would be to have access to a wide range of specialists who would work together to develop and monitor the implementation and operational efficiency of the system.

Critical to the introduction of all of the above are the key stakeholders -farmers and other groups who rely on the availability of large quantities of water.

Australia is a unique country. Unlike North America and Europe, Australia has little high country (apart from the Snowy area) in which snow can gather and be gradually shed as water run-off into river systems. Hence we desperately need a system which will maintain surface water availability and production without endangering the existing eco system.

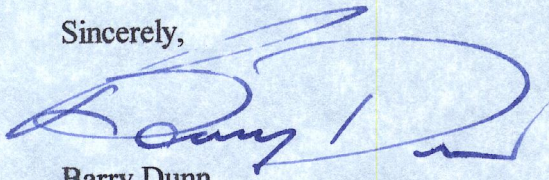
We are prepared to make detailed submissions to the Committee. Attached is a summary which outlines some of the details set out in the accompanying plans on water. We have also enclosed details of a solar still that will effectively eliminate pockets of salinity now occurring in many parts of Australia. The third part of the solution involves the recycling of waste streams to create products which can be used in conjunction with the water grid eg. solar/gas power generation and the conversion of bio solids and organic matter into compost for soil maintenance.

We request that Water for Australia be given an opportunity to present in more detail information about each of our proposals.

Your Committee has the opportunity to steer rural Australia into an exciting period of development which will determine this country's viability for centuries to come.

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| <b>Attachment A</b> | <b>Summary of a holistic plan for Rural development</b>                         |
| <b>Attachment B</b> | <b>Proposal for a National Water Grid and Environmental Plan for Australia.</b> |
| <b>Attachment C</b> | <b>Solar Desalination system for Agriculture.</b>                               |
| <b>Inclusion D</b>  | <b>C D ROM</b>  |

Sincerely,



Barry Dunn  
Director



Laurie Hogan  
Director