

Secretary: *[Signature]*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

SUBMISSION NO. 189

12 June 2003

Dr Anna Dacre,
Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600 Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Dacre,

I am Martin Laird of Keiraville, NSW and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet the Committee on 9 June. All going well, in the year 2025 I shall be 37 years old, and might be living in North Sydney and working in the Sydney CBD.

As I see it, based on recent trends, crime will increase, graffiti, fights and guns will be a lot more common. This is because lots of violence is now being exposed in video games, movies, television and on the news. In Micheal Moore's documentary Bowling for Columbine he showed that Americans are scared because of violence and gun inspiration on the television. Terrorism is scaring more and more people, whilst some people don't like going into big tower buildings. On the news we hear "Australia may be a target" but this is just scaring people. In Central Station at Sydney, rubbish is common by the track near the train platforms, because there is no rubbish bins, for there is fear that a bomb may be dropped into one. Could you imagine the fear and concern there is going to be in 2025.

Education is going fine but more support should be given to students who would like to go to university. However, HECS fees and UAI 'cut offs' continue to rise every year, making it more difficult for many students to go to University. Trades Apprenticeships, and studying at TAFE should be encouraged this would decrease unemployment a far bit, and help build skills. But most importantly, students should have a positive outlook towards school on all aspects. They should not feel school work is stressful and should not be bullied. This would make school look better to children, making for a smarter nation.

Whilst Sydney's environment is slowly getting better as the Environment Protection Agency has made big industries pollute less. Hopefully Australia will eventually sign the Kyoto agreement like Canada, New Zealand and most other countries have. Russia is about

to sign up. Some gains have been made in recycling, and maybe by 2025 we will reuse and recycle more than polluting garbage.

In big cities like Sydney big towers like the 80 floor Meriton hold hundreds of people. In 2025 it could be common to see 150 floor towers containing thousands of people. This is going to increase water demand, power demand, and demand for more goods leading to demand for more freight. However water supplies are drastically falling.

At the moment some dams are nearly 20% full, and rain has not come in a long time, other states can't trade water because other states have water problems as well, and it is difficult to transport long distances. How many water restrictions are we putting on until "Drink water only". There is only one solution: we need a DESALINATION plant, these plants convert unusable sea water into drinking water.

Power is mainly supplied by non renewable resources like coal, oil, and natural gas. We have too many non renewable power stations. New renewable power sources like solar, wind turbines, and hopefully hydrogen (been studied at Princeton University) will be our main source of power in the future.

In the year 2025 the cost of petrol could be 100 fold what it is now, and hydrogen and electric cars will be built but very expensive to run. All petrol cars will have to be recycled, and not as many people use highways (so why are we continually building new billion dollar ones?). Public transport must not be allowed to become run down but upgraded so that more people want to use it. Funding towards trains, buses, trams (when road use falls trams will become very popular) and maybe a new light rail system.

Yours sincerely

Martin Laird
12/6/04