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Alternative Water Resource for the Murray Darling Basin.

Dear Sir/Madam

Australia has deficient rainfall over major areas of its surface but it also has moderate, and even excessive rain over other extensive areas. It has suffered from droughts and will continue to do so. There is no dispute that Murray River water is vital for many of our most productive agricultural regions. In view of present controversies over water use every option should be considered before setting priorities.

Ion Idriess wrote a book called 'The Great Boomerang' in 1944 about bringing water from the east coast of Queensland to Central Australia. When one studies the map from his book it is possible that the Rockhampton area water could be brought down the Warrego river into the Darling River where the Menindee Lakes are. These lakes were built as part of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and can help control the rivers flow to south Australia and into the Coorong. With this new diverted water flow it might keep these rivers full all year round.

North Queensland rivers do discharge significant volumes of fresh water to the sea, and considerably larger volumes during the wet season. So why not re-examine the suggestion that at least some part of it could be diverted to maintain a healthy flow in the Murray river allowing irrigators to access a larger percentage of the water to grow food for Australia.

Surely the time is now ripe, after seventy years for a serious feasibility study of his idea. We need to have

1. Accurate estimates of the surplus water flows and their regularity.
2. A detailed engineering proposal as to how it might be done,
3. and preliminary cost estimates and cost/benefit studies, especially of the flow on effects for employment.

Yours Sincerely

Norah L Killip OAM
1/11/2010

Mr John Ranken MM