

02 69544321

SUBMISSION NO. 29



29 August, 2002

Mrs Kay Elson MP
House Agriculture
Fisheries & Forestry Committee Chair
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By facsimile: 6277 4424

Secretary: *[Signature]*

RECEIVED

29 AUG 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND FORESTRY

Dear Kay

INQUIRY INTO FUTURE WATER SUPPLIES FOR AUSTRALIA'S RURAL INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

I wish to support the efforts of your committee and encourage you to consider fully and boldly a broad range of scientific and economic instruments to address the current and future water needs of rural Australia.

Over the past few years we have been exposed to various aspects of the debate on cloud seeding in Australia. Whilst we have listened to both sides of the debate with interest we are concerned that this science has not been given open consideration. I feel Australia would benefit from an open debate on this technology as a real response to drought and climate change. I note with interest the potential of International work in this area and sincerely hope this could be fully considered on its technical grounds rather than dismissed as "too hard" or environmentally inappropriate.

I also wish to express interest in the work being done by the CSIRO to downscale climate models to a valley/catchment level. This work would appear to have merit in linking this level of climate modelling with valley allocation sharing models to enhance risk management options for water users.

The above technologies are, in my opinion, vital information needed to underpin the substantial investment required within the irrigation industry if we are to achieve efficient water use. Our irrigators at a farm level and at a corporate level will be required to make very large financial investments in technologies such as drip, lateral, pipe and computer management watering systems and I firmly believe these investments will not be entirely successful without the risk management benefits which may be delivered by the above technologies.

I hope your committee will support these areas of work.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]
M Bramston
Chief Executive Officer

ABN 75 951 271 684

Brolga Place PO Box 103
Coleambally NSW 2707
Telephone 02 6954 4003
Office Fax 02 6954 4321
Co. Sec. Fax 02 6950 2814