

The Vine and the Olive

Pocknees Rd.,
Lake Moogerah,
via Kalbar, Q. 4309

20th February 2003

The Chairperson
House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee
C/- P.O. Box 1414
Beenleigh Q. 4207

Secretary: *[Signature]*
RECEIVED
 - 7 MAR 2003
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STANDING COMMITTEE ON
 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
 AND FORESTRY

Dear Kay Elson

INQUIRY INTO FUTURE WATER SUPPLIES

While aware that the tourism industry is not directly mentioned in your terms of reference, indirectly there is potentially a powerful nexus between tourism and the presence or non-presence of water, and this can easily be translated into dollars and cents.

I would like to submit the enclosed letter-to-the-editor as a submission to your Committee for consideration.

I am
 Yours faithfully
[Signature]
 Kosti Simons

*But I am like an olive tree
 flourishing in the house of God:
 I trust in God's unfailing love
 for ever and ever.*

*I will praise you for ever for what you have done;
 in your name I will hope, for your name is good.*

Psalms 52: 8-9

24 FEB 2003

Letters to the Editor

'Not all about carrots, pumpkins and peas'

ON Monday I attended a meeting at the Boonah Council Chambers inquiring into 'Future Water Supplies for Australia's Rural Industries and Communities'. Boonah Shire Council spoke to a submission, and while the case was soundly argued, I was disappointed not to hear even a passing reference to the Tourist Industry in our Shire.

While I am aware that the terms of reference do not specifically mention tourism, in this shire it is very closely related to water.

It is not all about carrots and pumpkins and peas. Properly managed tourism may even overtake other forms of income, but persistently empty dams will not help the cause.

Let me point out a few facts, especially relating to Lake Moogerah which indisputably is the jewel in the crown of our Shire's tourist industry.

1. There are four camps around Lake Moogerah, and collectively they receive 9,600 visitors each year, both adult and youth.
2. Easter weekend at the Lake Moogerah Caravan park can see 3 - 4,000 visitors.
3. Skiers, fishermen, canoeists and their associated clubs constitute large numbers of people, apart from the usual weekend trippers and campers.
4. If the plans of the Moogerah Passion Play come to fruition we anticipate 15,000 people annually will visit our Christian Theme Park.

An enormous dollar sign has (quite rightly) been put over water in recent times, it is a substance that we have never really cherished as much as we do now, but in our haste to apportion it let us remember two things. The first is that an equally big dollar sign hangs over the tourist industry as over irrigation, and the second is that man does not live by bread alone - water can be very nourishing to the soul.

**Kosti Simons
Moogerah**