

# **Earth Care Earth Share Submission**

**Presented to the**

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural and  
regional industries and communities.**

At the time of writing this document, 82% of New South Wales is in drought.

Earth Care Earth Share's (ECES) submission addresses the five points of the committee's terms of reference by proposing tertiary treatment of secondary water from the Sydney Basin, Hunter and Central Coast regions, (that currently goes out to sea) to be diverted over the mountains for direct delivery to allocated areas. This would alleviate the drain on the inland river systems and provide planned, sustainable, economic, environmental and social benefits regardless of climatic conditions.

Australia has the technical, engineering, environmental, land management, and educational to undertake such a project. It is an enormous contradiction and a tragedy that the driest continent on earth continues to pump water into the sea.

This project could be managed by an organisation similar to the Snowy Mountains Authority with people like Earth Care Earth Share's John Stanton, also an employee of Hunter Health. John has been responsible as Hunter Area Project Manager and receiver of Sustainable Energy Champion award for reducing CO2 emissions by 30% and the first to achieve Government Energy Management Policy target of 25% reduction in energy from 1995/96 to 2005/6. This target has already been exceeded by a further 5% with three years remaining. In addition Andrei Shinkarenko of Earth Care Earth Share and, Hunter Area Engineer Consultant was not only responsible for achieving CO2 emissions as above, but also for the design of liquid LPG injection into diesel motors thus minimising diesel consumption, diesel particulates, CO2 and NOX emissions. Both are people with vision and the obvious runs on the board needed to drive a project such as this.

They are people at the cutting edge of the Sustainable Revolution. They are people for whom environmental concerns are the imperative. Economic and social infrastructure has to take place within a clean and vital environment.

Stage one would involve all relevant Federal, State and Local Government Departments and Authorities. All relevant universities and private sector organisations and personnel, would also be involved in the information gathering, problem solving, modelling and evaluation of the project.

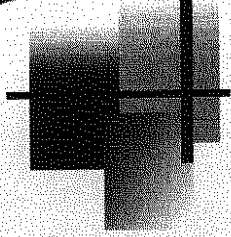
Australia first pumped secondary water inland from Perth to Kalgoorlie in 1929. We can do a better job now. Eraring Power Station (ERPS) take secondary treated effluent that was to be discharged into the sea. Tertiary treats it and then uses it for on site industrial uses. (see attached document).

John and Andrei's starting point is suggesting a number of options for consideration in the transportation of secondary water that would be piped from Sydney, the Central Coast and the Upper Hunter tertiary treated and pumped over the range. The water at any stage could be sourced for a variety of purposes eg. Liddel, Bayswater Power Stations, coalmines, vineyards etc. Once over the mountains the water would be carried further north for farmland purposes.

There are a wide range of options open for this project. With assistance from rural communities, research would determine the most appropriate model for effective water management.

The ecological, social and economic outcomes of this project are enormous: Reforestation (saving old growth forests); a food bowl for Asia; employment; social and cultural infrastructure development; flushing inland river systems. Our grandparents travelled on paddle steamers to Bourke. We would know that the project had been successful if our grandchildren took the same trip.

# Water Management





# **Earth Care Earth Share**

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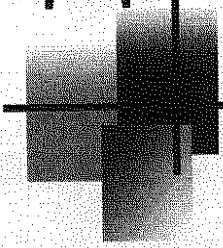
**Standing Committee on  
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and communities.**



# Foreword

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- Earth Care Earth Share now called ECES submission addresses the committee's terms of reference and Ms Kelly Hoare's MP Member for Charlton's letter (see attached).



# **Executive Summary**

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- **First stage project option to get tertiary treated water supply over the Great Dividing Range through the Upper Hunter**



# **Policy Objectives**

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- Reduce one to three billion litres of secondary water daily from coastal waters by a number of diversification projects (Sydney Basin, Hunter Valley and Central Coast)
- The main strategy would be the supply of tertiary treated water for irrigation in the Darling River system and associated catchment areas

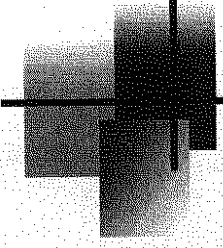


## **Policy Objectives cont'd**

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- **More access to and effective water management will increase by 10% to 30% the current economic rural value by 5 billion dollars**
- **This Green Water Management project would be subject to energy renewable credits**



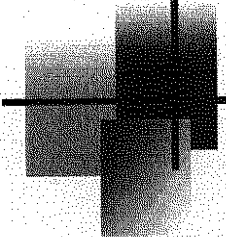


# Methodology

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## NSW Government Processes of Planning Example

- Complete feasibility study
- Concept plan plus working model
- Complete project definition plan



## Methodology cont'd

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- Incorporate and evaluate catchment management studies, reports and statutory obligations into the project definition plan
- All relevant university departments to participate in project
- The involvement of all relevant regional and non-government agencies



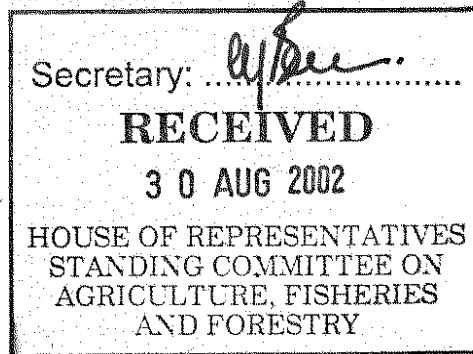
# Cost

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- To undertake the Project it is recommended that funds of 10 million dollars for the planning be allocated and the cost shared by both Federal and State Governments

31 August 2002

Ms Kelly Hoare MP  
Member for Charlton  
Suite 2 180 Main Road  
SPEERS POINT NSW 2284



Dear Ms Hoare

Thank you for your correspondence dated 31 July 2002 encouraging me to submit a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. We are all aware of the devastation the present drought is causing rural NSW and the effect this is having on the Australian economy as well as the added problem of the international economic downturn. I have felt the personal need to accelerate the proposal by advising you with a quick brief. This will help you and your Parliamentary colleagues understand that considerable expertise and know-how could be drawn on to assist with this Australia-wide problem.

With consideration to the above matters, I have taken the liberty to try to help accelerate the reason for a first stage option to get secondary treated water supplies over the Great Dividing Range to benefit all communities. A similar system was used successfully in 1929 from the Perth area, through the Darling Range to Kalgoorlie. It is our understanding other proposals were around in the early eighties which included the McDonald Report.

A number of efficient options are available to Government and the communities to undertake a first stage project to pipe secondary treated water say minimum 1 billion litres per day from within the Hunter Region for drought relief. The next stage could be a major capital works program to consider water volumes of this magnitude one-three billion litres per day.

As discussed Earth Care Earth Share will complete the submission for the Committee by addressing the core issues of water management for the continent on the eastern side (coastal and inland). This in turn will identify short and long term financial benefits, employment, and efficient controlled in sustaining good environmental outcomes and thereby create real wealth. It is suggested we develop and design the right concept model to use ocean out falls were possible for secondary treated water as a major water management diversification program.

But more importantly the social pain to the rural communities in times of drought needs to be managed now. Our past history has been more catchment management studies, more reports but never a holistic Rural Management Policy that can be immediately implemented.

We respectfully commend the Australian Parliament and you for allowing us to offer our input on such important matter and request a meeting with you to discuss the complexities of the project.

Yours sincerely

John Stanton