

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared for a wide audience. It is principally designed to serve as a background document to the *Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities* being conducted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry but also to serve as a stimulant to encourage the CSIRO to reconsider its current position in regard to the benefits of precipitation enhancement by cloud seeding in Australia.

It has been presented in the context of the serious situation, which currently exists in the south of the continent of Australia with depleted water storage as a result of reduced yield, which has been occurring since 1975.

Observations are presented from a study tour to the United States and in particular to Texas, where extensive rain enhancement programs have been underway for over 30 years.

Cloud seeding has not enjoyed enthusiastic support in Australia based on the experience of the 1970's and the contention that insufficient moisture is present in Australian continental clouds.

The variety of weather and geological conditions in Texas are not unlike those in Australia and the report provides details of a range of programs inspected in Texas and presents very positive details on the efficacy of the rain fall outcomes in Texas as a result of cloud seeding.

These details are compelling and the report concludes by recommending that the CSIRO renew their interest in cloud seeding research based on the use of high technology interpretive radar, as used in Texas, and that this interest should commence with a visit by CSIRO meteorologists to Texas as a matter of urgency.

John Forrest MP

Federal Member for Mallee

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HARVESTING THE SKIES

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APPENDIX C –
 Public Relations and media

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 Video – Harvest West Texas 1995
 Video – John Forrest news interview
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