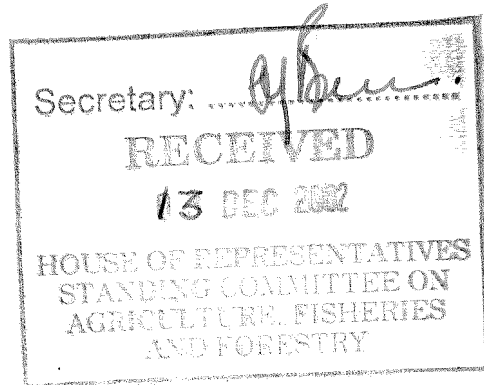


12 December 2002
Dr Andrew Brien
Inquiry Secretary
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Fax: 02 6277 4424



Dear Dr Brien,

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

Further to our earlier submission, attached is a refined summary setting out the major points of the plan developed by Water for Australia Pty. Ltd. This plan has been carefully researched over many years. It addresses all of the major issues relating to water management. The importance of having access to permanent water is now being demonstrated with most of Australia now plunged into drought, the effects of which will have long term consequences on future economic growth.

The plan has been designed to ensure sustainability and to promote growth as well as to address problems such as salinity and soil degradation. It has been fully costed and could be implemented in whole or in part at different locations around Australia. This plan provides a vision for the new century.

We would welcome the opportunity to present the plan in detail to the inquiry.

Forwarded for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Dunn

Director

Laurie Hogan

Director

The Water Grid Concept: Concise Summary

We all know this is a low profile, resource rich, island continent. Its population is concentrated in the larger coastal cities, with an ever-increasing drift to these urban, overpopulated sprawls.

This ongoing problem is caused by loss of services and very high unemployment in rural sectors. This situation is exacerbated by the present devastating drought. In the past, the effects of the flood/drought syndrome and unsuitable farming practices, have contributed to salinity and land degradation.

It is now time to take affirmative action to rectify these problems using modern technology and give more certainty to the hardworking people who produce the economic wealth of rural Australia and to help preserve the environment.

The solution to these problems and our hope for the future is in the application of first principles in engineering by using water grids. These water grids will provide the most efficient use of Australia's hydrology systems. They can deliver metered water to the rural industry using a piped network energised by solar power.

Some have suggested that large pipes be used for water transport. We suggest that a grid, which is a network of buried, smaller diameter pipes, can transport water more efficiently than a large pipeline. These grids can deliver more water over a wider expanse than a one large pipe, concentrated flow.

Not only do pipe grids deliver water, but also break up the present huge catchments into most efficient, one square kilometre catchments. Within each catchment, a ten -mega litre water flow collection reservoir captures the rainfall run-off and stores the water for distribution via the grid. These small catchments collect rainfall at many more times the present rate, before the cloud cover disperses.

The Advantages of the Water Grid Plan are:

- • Rapid and effective catchment and storage of rainfall, which includes rehabilitation of open cut mine sites to reservoirs for aquaculture.
- • Quick and efficient transfer, balancing water within the grid area.
- • Piped water creates 80% to 90% water saving over current wasteful open channel irrigation seepage and evaporation.
- • Salinated water is transferred from the contaminated farm, or the ocean, to the desalinating plant for extraction of salt and redistribution of clean water.
- • Guarantees intensive and productive, sustainable, economic farming.
- • Creates at least 500,000 new jobs.
- • Produces long-term profits.
- • Insulates against the damaging extremes of drought and flood.
- • Reuse of travelling groundwater for rural production.
- • Protects river flows and riverbanks and increases water to the environment.

The Water for Australia Plan has been fully costed and explained with a cost benefit analysis, which is available at \$32. Phone Laurie Hogan (02) 99138603 or Barry Dunn 95341194 fax 92883077-email barry@growmax.com.au www.wfa.com.au

Mr Laurie Hogan & Mr Barry Dunn
Directors
Water for Australia Pty Ltd
PO Box 2010
PEAKHURST DC 2210 VIC