

From: Robert Vincin
Sent: Saturday, 30 April 2005 12:51 AM
To: ECITA, Committee (SEN)
Subject: ECONOMIC IMPACT of SALINITY Environmental economics

MAY13 Close

ECONOMIC IMPACT of SALINITY

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References
Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary and Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

I attach my submission to the committee. My data was used by the recent NSW inquiry in the cancer salinity and my advice highlighted as solutions. Repeating governments hold inquires by since there is no funds, or will, the conclusions are but academic. My global travels to the worlds' deserts and saline regions illustrates where Australia will be in 20 years time and physically a third world nation in fifty.

The only rescue to attract a sustainable restored environment for the Historians of Tomorrow is recognise that water soil vegetation atmosphere are the core assets of the nation and planet. These assets are interlinked, insolubly linked, you cannot interfere with one without interfering the others. Salinity, drought, flood, devegetation, lack of water, climate change, can only be addressed collectively. (You don't tread a road accident victim one scratch at a time its team work at once).

Funds in the 10s of billions needed will never come from government. The only available source in the next couple of months is ratification of Kyoto. The income from global "carbon trading" via sequestration CO2 back to soil carbon is major plantations of C4 vegetation. Australia is almost out of time to act. You will note I lead the delegation to convince the PM to sign Kyoto but he refuses to ratify. Embargoes are now being applied to our exports under the signature rules.

I am preparing to commence plantations of C4 carbon sinks for ratified nations off shore

I will be the Keynote speaker at the Association of Former MP's in Canberra the morning of the Budget. My address will cover much of the attached. If I can convince such a distinguish gathering of the greatest risk to face nation and globe then maybe we will have the funds and management to address environmental economics

The attached also includes a simplified visual set detailing inter relationship of the now

stalled CARBON CYCLE

I can drop off a copy on the 10th if you so wish. Best wishes on your task.

I am without prejudice

Robert Vincin

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(3) The only true assets of the planet we pass to the generations to come are, **soil-water-vegetation-air**. Carbon is the lifeblood of soil, sustained by vegetation and water to convert CO₂ into, soil carbon, and, return air to the atmosphere. C4 sequestration is the only process to reverse CO₂ build-up. CO₂ expands unabated! Trees are C3 and take carbon from the soil most of their life and once harvested all that carbon leaves also. Many of C4 varieties are halophytic (salt loving) formerly managed salt levels in catchments prior to clearing. Replanting grand-scale C4 will reduce CO₂ and salinity

ECONOMIC IMPACT of SALINITY

I have given evidence to previous Senate, State government inquires over several decades into, Climate Change, Salinity, Water and Drought impacts. I am quoted in all reports with suggestions highlighted on proven reparation initiatives. My extensive historical and scientific studies are published. I sat on United Nations forums on Climate Change, and, with the UN and privately visited most of the world' deserts and environmentally degraded regions. I have had the privileged to be hosted by heads of Universities academies and governments in the quest for open knowledge. I offer the follow in invitation to your request for data. Subject to my being here in Australia I would be pleased to meet. By way of interest I am the keynote speaker May 10th to Association of Former MP's in Canberra (day of budget, in the Old House)

Terms of reference

Your first reference point (a)" has the government goals been attained" the answer of course is absolutely not. The cancer salinity is spreading across the body. There is no point in discussing any other point at this time. Understanding the economic impact of salinity demands understanding the baseline cause effect and solution.
CAUSE

In my scientific historical research papers (27 years of study of the first European explorers and botanists hand written papers) delivered to the scientific assemblies The Murray Darling Commission workshops 1996 and the Second Stream Conference 1999 my published papers address the European induction of salinity in the Australian soil and water ways. The paper the missing sink (Vincin Condon) changed UNFCCC COP 6.5)

Repetitive governments and many of the heads of agencies being too fixed ignore the overwhelming hard-core facts and/or, the solution contrary to the position they have assumed. So this new inquiry following 100 years of inquiries must decide, finally and urgently, based on accumulated knowledge, for and on behalf of the Historians of Tomorrow action via hands on must commence. The inquiry should boldly direct government to the solutions, for history shows, prior enquires decided it was too hard. To await this time for another government to hold their inquiry will be too late as the cancer is now moving across the body (of the nation). Assuming this enquiry is dedicated to saving our decaying soils and water vegetation and rural folks growing food for the city people I offer the following. Also attached is a visual presentation.

(1) Holding inquiries into salinity, water, erosion, and climate change, loss of habitat, greenhouse, and atomic waste disposal in isolation has always been the directions of governments it is futile

Take a look at how many environmentally related inquiries are currently being held in isolation by the federal government and departments.

It is like a doctor treating a person who has been subject to exposure for a long period of time and starting with, healing the salt burns but until that is repaired waiting to address, sunburn, malnutrition, and dehydration, Sun blindness, ulceration, kidney failure and blood poisoning, all at a later date by some other groups.

The UNCCD Protocol (desertification) (to which this, the worlds' driest continent was virtually the last to ratify) nominates its' world desertification Day June 17th and its decade of desert reversal 2006-15 has distributed visual relating, the human surface skin to that of the earth surface. Unlike the rest of the world Australia has pockets of agencies each with a life career mapped out all in isolation. Other nations appoint in these most critical times an overall expert as Minister or head of a total environmental agencies linking, cause-effect-solution integrally. So indifferent are we here that, we have appointed 10 "Ministers" in one generation. The core assets soil-water-vegetation-atmosphere have been treated as inexhaustible for this generation's use only.

(2) My record precedes me in submissions to State and Federal inquiries into these issues. The most recent NSW salinity inquiry I am quoted as offering the solution.

My extensive global travel with UN and privately into salinity desert poverty ravaged regions illustrates the necessity for a bold body and leader to say, "these issues are insolubly link'. Alas I fear another decision delay, and continue to treat the core business of Australia's asset in isolation, akin to but moving the deck chairs". If Government was a business (as it should be) the shareholder would note the decline of core assets, in fact, stripping the asset and ASIC and the Stock Exchange would, after the event, send in the receivers and jail directors.

(3) What repetitive agencies and particularly Parliaments fail to recognize is that, Soil, Water, Vegetation, Atmosphere, are the only baseline assets of the globe and nation. For a peppercorn rent oil, mining, agriculture, forestry, gas, companies extract other assets from the global and pay no real repayment or replacement, such is left for the next generation to solve.

(4) Let us assume for a moment such a thought. Soil-Water-Vegetation-Atmosphere as assets insolubly linked has creditability and is worthy of exploration.

Like any genuine researcher as opposed to a collector of offered array of data, the researcher goes back to historical baseline data. The following is abridged:-

In my references to the Papers There was no river system (a) (Murray Darling Snowy) only water courses (not rivers) that were recharged once a year that in turn recharged, aquifers, billabongs, lakes, I highlight: - Reed barriers held back flow spreading the flow across the catchments. Aquifers were fully charged with natural overflows (water returning) back into down flow outlets. Reed cover billabongs, aerated water as cooling towers, and a breach were rapidly stopped by loose debris. High carbon silt (carbon the lifeblood of soil) was carried in the fresh water generators. The first squatters settlers assuming the soil was deep like that of the northern hemisphere rapidly cleared the land and alas the reed barriers across the catchments. The water courses (including the Snowy) only had flow for a short time following monsoon rain and melting snow and the waters seldom reaching today's Wentworth and very occasional, the western HEADLAND Hindmarsh at Lake Alexandrina. Sketches, paintings, and from 1867 photos prove this. The earlier races of Aborigines since murdered were friends of the early explorers and used the terms the "water dies in the plains" or goes down into the earths mouth (open rubble sinks). The early explorers often went weeks without adequate water supplies and contrary to popular stories the only time they launched their collapsible boats was to explore large billabongs or Macquarie marshes. Occasionally some billabongs were salty but there were no gully deep rivers with massive trees growing in the centre of the flow (the "river moved to surround and under cut the trees) (how did a seed take hold under water and grow through the flow??)

One Captain Cadell won the first race up the water flow "the Murray" plying from billabong to billabong during a flood that reached Wentworth. The low draft paddle wheeler smashed down the reed barriers and all behind them hence the zigzag route of today. He later won the \$80,000 pound contract to build a paddle wheeler to cut down all trees to a common level below the water line to allow paddle wheeler up the flow. (Examples still exist today of such horrific damage to the future of Australia's ability to be self sustaining.

Squatters and settlers also cleared the reeds away from the billabongs "to allow the cattle and women to gather potable water". They burnt vegetation and trees across the catchments. Cadell carried on his saw cutting up the Darling into Queensland. The next time the annual floods came the water without restrictions of trees and vegetation or billabong reeds gathered speed cutting new and deep gullies across these new "properties". The boundaries of soon to be declared States and private holding constantly changed. Great visual of the Mayor of Singleton standing in his top hat with other councilors and photographer witnessing the loss of half the town down a deepened gully or the array of locomotives (replacing the paddle wheeler because the annual flows stopped) lying on their side in a washout by the newly formed rivers was a constant annual event.

(5) So these new route deep gullies (that the average 21st century citizen believes is the true and only route of the west of the divide) rivers, and the irrigation systems such as the Murrumbidgee system built across known salt flats, salt creeks, salt billabongs, (I have copies of these maps and the later maps removing all references to salt but submitted to government for funding the system) create the drama and legacy we face today. The wholesale removal of halophytic (salt-loving) vegetation and the totally irresponsible overgrazing by cattle barons such as Kidman added to the inability for natural sequestration and management of salt tables.

(6) It is interesting to note that the earlier holdings of sheep and cattle grazing on these halophytic varieties enjoyed an income of double to those on non-saline grasses and vegetation. Today wool meats leather from halophytic grazing properties is double that of grass hay fed livestock.

EFFECT

So, today governments are trying to take away the baseline asset WATER from landholder claiming it owns such water this poor advised is being challenged.

Any minister believing that the crop grower can survive on 35% of the water use has obviously never had a vegetable patch let alone a water dependant production farm.

The Magna Carta King James Common Law and the Australian Constitution clearly specify that, land and water are inseparable assets of the landholder not that of government. Take advice of leading bank people who have loaned landholders whether they will accept that, a landholder can sell part of the asset. The federal government is supporting water license asset sales of previously issued licenses in the belief that it will acquire water to flush out salt in the Murray Darling system. The hard-core reality is, those that are rushing to sell their licenses are mostly dry land farmer (with no water under or near their land) therefore no spare water.

ECONOMIC IMPACT of SALINITY. STATUS TODAY

Two centuries of vegetation clearing, alteration of water flows, loss of soil carbon, alteration to historical transpiration, establishment of Federal and State government agencies separating various elements of the baseline assets SOIL WATER VEGETATION ATMOSPHERE each agency and Minister competing for the limited funds to expand and report of the demise of the assets has achieved further demise. At this very moment to confirm this sad fact a visit to governments web sites confirms the number of inquires. Other critical but important issues such as non pollutant energy like atomic waste are back in the governments agenda but no reference to disposal of such danger. Wind and solar geosequestration geothermal energy are being funded because they look good but when sound scientific undertakings prove them to cost more financially and environmentally. There are a host of scientifically proven solutions but do not have the political support to be introduced.

THE ONLY SOLUTION

Unless there is a bold truthful leader who discovers the fact that, the earth and nation are consuming the baseline assets at an unprecedented rate and addressing reparation attempts in isolation then holding inquiries as to solutions is futile. The Historians of tomorrow need leaders today. If government was a board of directors of a company consuming base assets without replacement or introducing polluting sources without adequate disposal then on behalf of shareholders ASIC and the Stock exchange would take them to court after the damage was done.

HOW TO REVERSE and REMOVE the CANCER SALINITY

The following might seem a long trip there is but one solution Asset restoration and management Establish a BOARD of DIRECTION a master asset management department with a mix of directors from all sides of government a balanced non-party management.

(1) Take advice from world leaders eg 147 world leaders and their scientist signed and ratified Kyoto. Australia signed and committed to the penalty embargo rules.

(2) Commence global emission offset trading (carbon trading) the income via C4 vegetation carbon sequestration will address infrastructure building. WHY? It will fund salinity reversal and other fine deeds

(3) If we are to avoid repeating historical mistakes we must understand the carbon cycle and in turn the planetary environmental asset balancing under a common "Board of Direction" for the Historians of tomorrow

(a) 27 years of study of the first European explorers and botanists hand written documents sketches paintings maps.

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Attachment visuals

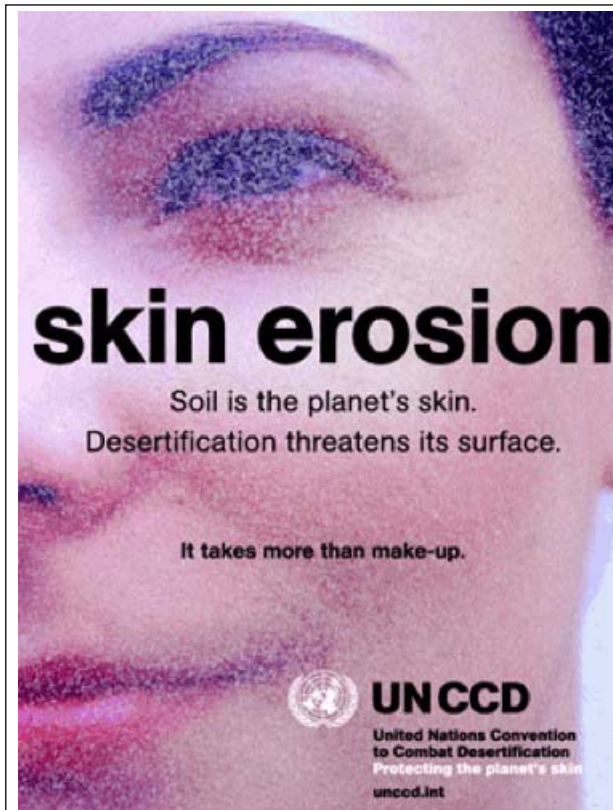
Before attempting to understanding salinity, loss of water sources, desertification one must seek baseline data.

History records, nations such as the Middle East, Africa, China India impacted by man made salinity water deprived deserts. Colonel Gadaffi President Roosevelt China and India (under the Australian Columbo plan) planted out halophytic C4 vegetation regenerating rich carbon soil for future food producing - regions. Cost was measured against cost of delay and no self sustaining food regions

Much of Australia was covered by sea penetrating soils and clay. C4 vegetation thrived as seas receded creating a layer of carbon rich soil through the sequestration of CO2 which gave ground for C3 trees to take root.

Centuries of uncontrolled burn -ing and in turn European clearing and farming reduced halophytic plants. Contrary to popular belief no flowing river system existed. The first European explorers found only billabongs and entry points for aquifers to be recharged when the annual monsoon rains and melting snow water flowed down and across the catchments. Massive reed barriers covering billabongs held back and cooled the flows Halophytic C4 vegetation often 50 mile wide forced explorers to detour but they and cattle/sheep barons such as Kidman found they received more income from livestock grazing from such vegetation. Over a brief period they overgrazed it they and land-clearing removing the reed barriers allowed the flows to concentrate in soft soils clays forming what we now call rivers. These new gullies take water away from aquifer entry points land clearing stopped transpiration and over-farming to exhaust soil of carbon. Treating salinity or lack of water in isolation is folly!

Repetitive government inquiries Fail to recognise soil-water-air-vegetation are baseline assets! What does the Nations mantel have in common with humans?



Sustaining the baseline assets

It will take a bold visionary person in government ranks to stand and declare, "we are servants of the public and under the constitution are responsible for the management of the common wealth preservation of the assets". "WE ARE A BOARD MANAGEMENT a board of direction".

The baseline assets of the common wealth are soil-water-vegetation-atmosphere firstly and secondly minerals and energy therein. Since all are interlinked and interdependent upon sustainable management, the board is seeking new advisors and proven experts to administer the common wealth. We commence in finding the 100s of billions of dollars needed. Since 147 world leaders have ratified the Kyoto protocol in lowering CO2 and, to avoid the forthcoming trade embargoes under the treaty, we will ratify.

C4 vegetation is the major sequester of CO2, re Generating much needed soil carbon here we start but with halophytic fodder quality varieties. With ratification of Australia as a nation has the potential for international carbon trading via sequestration.. The world is rapidly becoming aware that to lower CO2 restarting the carbon cycle is mandatory. The income from such trading will fund a comprehensive national environmental reparation programme.

History will record that this generation knew the cause effect and solution to environmental asset degradation and did or did not act to implement reparation

April May 2005 sees an unprecedented number of Federal and State inquiries into Climate change, water drought, salinity, uranium as a fuel. All are viewed in isolation by various agencies and committees.

Salinity is a direct result of land clearing and change in water flows. Desertification is a result of poor government plans. Successive government leaders fail to comprehend that Soil-Water-Vegetation Atmosphere are the nations baseline assets.

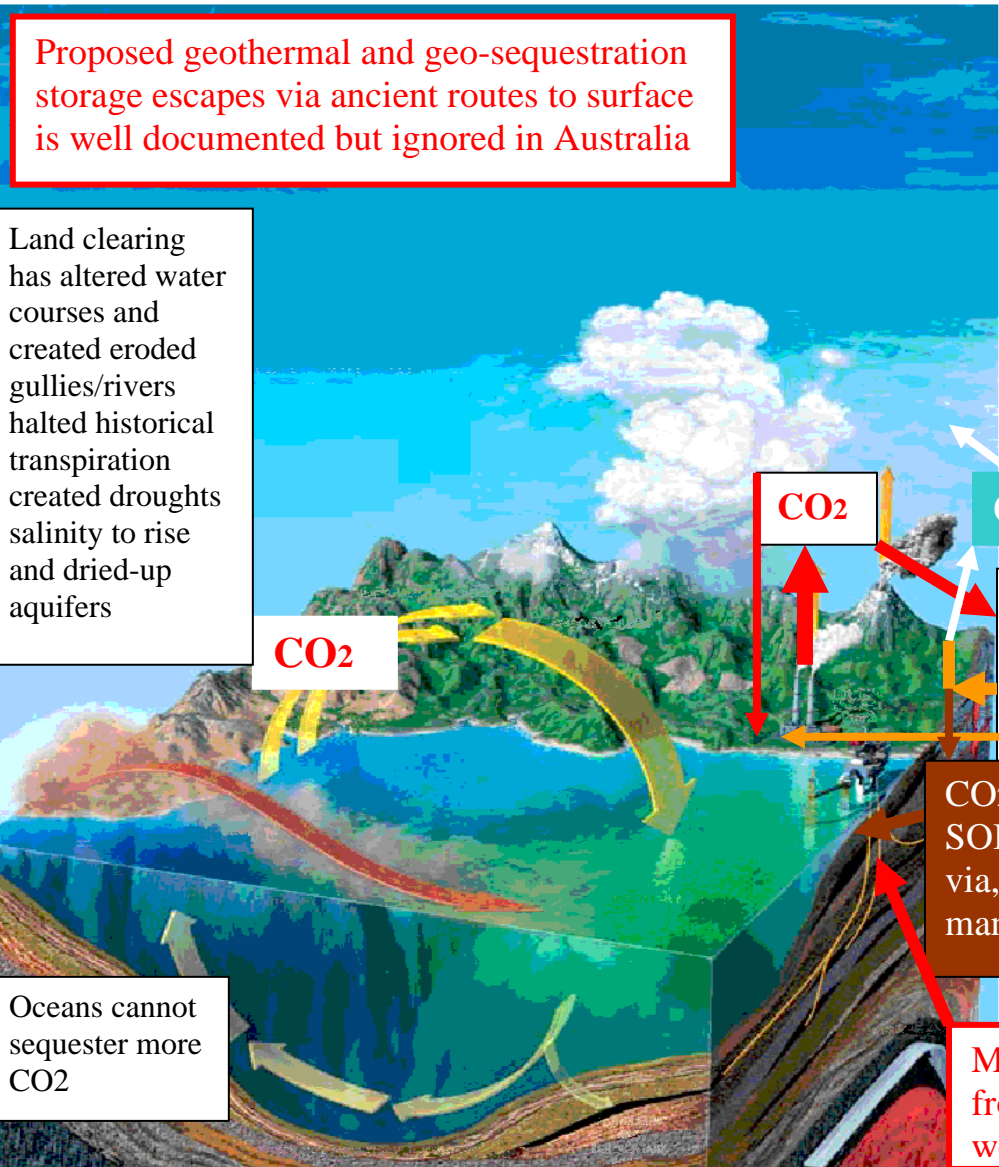
100 years of government inquiries into asset degradation and inquiries to establish if these isolated targets were met is at best incompetent or if government was a public company shareholders would call ASIC and the Stock Exchange to charge those in management with misappropriation of assets At the present rate of demise of the assets and the cancers of salt and soil carbon loss Australia is on the path to join Africa and the Middle East in becoming a full desert. Deserts and introduced weeds and rodents and bugs all expand at 10k pa. I have with the UN and privately travelled the worlds' deserts and indeed reparation regions. Unless there is a leader willing to stand as Chief executive and state "the kids assets are being eroded because there is no comprehensive management and prior poor advice has lead to decisions in isolation we are going to manage all asset under a single plan" we will have zero soon.

The Carbon Cycle

Centuries of land clearing means more Greenhouse gases are being produced than can be converted back to soil carbon. The earth lacks C4 CO2 sequestering vegetation.

CO2 C4 halophytic vegetation sequesters salt from soil and converts CO2 to soil carbon and oxygen to atmosphere.

Salinity from ancient salt seas cannot be flushed out with water, only halophytic / C4 high carbon sequestration can lower salt levels.



Proposed geothermal and geo-sequestration storage escapes via ancient routes to surface is well documented but ignored in Australia

Land clearing has altered water courses and created eroded gullies/rivers halted historical transpiration created droughts salinity to rise and dried-up aquifers.

Oceans cannot sequester more CO2

Australian C4 vegetation varieties with proven long life can reverse the global CO2 build-up while restoring lost soil carbon.

ATOMIC Energy could be used provided Stoichiometric Hydrogen disposal back to carbon is employed. Stoichiometric energy is a single gas from water imploding back to water no measured upper limit of heat is known.

The Australian government proposes to claim that, by ceasing land clearing it could meet Kyoto. Facts are that the bulk of clearing is C3 and still emitting CO2 from the soil and roots.

OXYGEN

C4 vegetation Sequestering CO2

CO2 back to SOIL CARBON via, sustainable management

Methane/CO2 from Disused wells & shafts

Water Soil Vegetation Atmosphere remain the earth's' and nation's only core assets. Drought, salinity, loss of habitat, climate change, water loss/trading, free-trade agreements, switching to atomic energy, Kyoto Treaty are insolubly links and cannot by any rational person be discussed seeking solutions without embracing the interlinking assets and issues.

Speak of salinity eradication you must seek cause =historical loss of halophytic vegetation- land clearing, changed water courses, letting historical halophytic vegetation die, loss of vegetation stalled transpiration, loss of rainfall stopped aquifers and city dams from filling, loss of water stopped food farming, abandoned farm management deserts follow, and no income producing sector no exports. Failure to ratify Kyoto Treaty puts at risk 80 cents in the dollar and prevents hundreds of billions of dollar income via Australia's high C4 halophytic vegetation to reverse, salinity, deserts, fund infrastructure, water to aquifers and city dams.

Soil, water, vegetation, air, are the core assets of the Historian of Tomorrow

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CANNOT BE TREATED IN ISOLATION

If government was a public company the Directors treating the core assets in isolation and without a replacement plan would be considered by ASIC and the stock exchange as asset stripping. Is government and members not a public institution/instrument?

