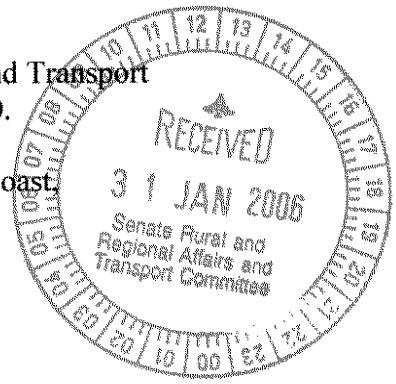
Part 1 (of 2)



TO: Committee Secretary, Roxanne Leguen, Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Department of Senate, Parliament House , Canberra, ACT, 2600.

FROM: Laurence Jones, 5 Boorook St, Buddina, 4575, Sunshine Coast, Queensland.
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SUBMISSION:

Please find enclosed my submission to the above committee regarding a strategy initiated in 1992 by the Federal Government and involving the Australian environmental movement and companies involved in water and wastewater treatment, a strategy that continues today, to ***force*** the introduction of treated sewage effluent directly into Australian's drinking water supply mains {Direct Potable Reuse of Treated Sewage Effluent}, instead of building any new dams.

In early 1995 the Australian Water and Wastewater Association {AWWA}, since renamed the Australian Water Association {AWA}, joined that strategy which I believe, then became a conspiracy.

GETTING RID OF THE COMPETITION BECAUSE YOU CAN'T COMPETE:
Sounds like an issue that the ACCC should be involved in, wouldn't you think ?
For the strategy to succeed dams had to be removed as a water supply option because the present supply of water from dams is far cheaper in comparison to potable reuse and put simply, the cost to reuse treated sewage effluent for drinking purposes would be more than double. To get over this obstacle a campaign was initiated through the Senate to more than double the cost of our present water supply {The Water Report- Dec 2002} *"Double Urban Water Price To $200 / ML, argues Senate Committee".*

WATER CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN DRASTICALLY REDUCED OVER THE PAST YEAR SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PUBLIC IS AWARE THAT THERE IS A CONCERN THAT WE MAY RUN OUT OF THE VALUABLE RESOURCE BECAUSE OF DROUGHT AND THE IMCOMPETENCE OF GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE FAILED TO BUILD MORE DAMS. THE REDUCTION IN USAGE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH THE RISE IN THE COST OF WATER.

The Australian public has in the past and continues to be misled and deceived by all three levels of government, the government owned and controlled ABC, SBS, the media in general, including The Sydney Morning Herald, the Australian environmental movement, regarding plans to force the introduction of treated sewage effluent directly into Australian's drinking water supply mains, starting with Sydney and South East Queensland, and the existence of the above strategy.

In 1993, as an integral part of the strategy, the Australian Conservation Movement commenced a campaign of publicly condemning dams and ocean outfalls, while privately

promoting the reuse of treated sewage effluent inserted into the public's drinking water supply mains for human consumption.

The strategy to force the introduction of this concept is based upon a number of lies.
{1} Direct Potable Reuse of Treated Sewage Effluent a proven, safe technology.
Direct Potable Reuse as is planned here using sewage sourced from industry, homes, hospitals and abattoirs, is a world first, how could it be proven, safe technology as the AWWA states in their Policies 1995-7.

{2} People all over the world are drinking treated sewage effluent.
The USA has only one system in which treated sewage effluent is dispersed into a surface water body, Virginia, used for drinking purposes. Unlike what is planned in Australia, the water is taken from a river that includes a small % of treated sewage effluent. The treated sewage effluent is not inserted directly into a reservoir or dam as is planned here.

{3} In England and Wales the same water passes through eight sets of kidneys.
The Drinking Water Inspectorate for England and Wales { DWI} states in their brochure in answer to the question, " *Is wastewater recycled to produce tap water"?*
"Wastewater is not treated and converted directly inserted drinking water".

{4} Australians have been drinking recycled water for years. Some have, the % is small and the impact on human health of drinking it is unknown. No real time long term health studies have ever been carried out on any community consuming treated sewage effluent.

The sewerage treatment plants are not designed to remove the contaminants in sewage, such as chemicals, viruses, pathogens etc and the water treatment plants also are not designed to remove these contaminants.
To use this type of reuse as an example as to why we should drink treated sewage effluent because of the perceived safety and lack of known impacts on human health is both inexcusable and misleading.

{5} Reusing treated sewage effluent for drinking purposes is less damaging to the environment than desalination. Potable Reuse uses extensive amounts of energy for reverse osmosis, the generation of ozone that must be carried out on site, and the processes produce a brine that is classified as 'HAZARDOUS', one that is very difficult to deal with.

{6} Potable Reuse of treated sewage effluent is sustainable. Potable Reuse is unsustainable, only a % , some say 40 to 60% of the sewage effluent is treatable and reusable. The concept only delays the need for another dam or water supply.

{7}Services Sydney and all proponents of potable reuse state that the ocean outfalls will be closed. Not so, the ocean outfalls will be needed for wet weather discharge, for when the plants need to be shut down for maintenance or in emergencies, to dispose of the sewage that can't be treated and, I suspect, to remove the brine.

{8} Most of Australia's future dam sites are gone. Not so. One example is Sydney while another is in South East Qld. Take SE Qld, attempts were made at Caboolture in 1996 and again at Caloundra and Maroochydore in 1997 to introduce direct potable reuse. Presently both councils have a questionnaire out asking which option the community prefers for their future drinking water supply, options which include a new dam that would supply not only the Sunshine Coast's but other areas in SE Qld as well. Our dams are full because we have a reasonable rainfall.

{9} Our dams are failing. No they are not. We survive today through this drought and with the continued increase in population because of those dams.
Jan 29th Jan 2006 The Sunday Mail – " *Ross Dam had fallen to 5% capacity this month but the downpour caused the dam to jump above twenty %, Twelve months supply*".
It is more a case that governments have failed the public.

{10} Desalination is more expensive than water recycling. Depends if you are comparing water recycling for industry and irrigation for sporting fields, golf courses, etc or for potable reuse as is planned in Sydney. Desalination for drinking purposes is less expensive than water recycling for drinking purposes, especially when one includes the extensive and expensive testing of the treated effluent and monitoring costs.

{11} Australia does not recover the true costs of water supply through a dam. Depends upon individual dams. The Baroon Pocket Dam is a cash cow for Caloundra and Maroochy Councils because the water is delivered by gravity to the Coast.

Water Recycling using treated sewage effluent for irrigation, dual reticulation, on golf courses etc costs much more to produce than what is recouped. Funny that has never been mentioned in the press.

What is often purposely overlooked by proponents of this concept is the fact that dams and desalination pose minimal risk to human health, unlike potable reuse of treated sewage effluent which uses sewage that is 100% contaminated and 100% infectious. It is sourced from industry, homes, abattoirs and hospitals. Potable Reuse relies upon the technology and the plants operators to ensure that no contaminants pass through the system, they can't.

TRUST TECHNOLOGY:
* Recently, the wall on a reservoir in the USA collapsed after the technology used that was supposed to prevent the reservoir from overfilling failed to shut the water supply off.
* The recent Customs expensive computer system for the docks failed.
* The Australian submarines built recently have had extensive problems and can't operate effectively, resulting in extensive repairs.
* Milwaukee, USA, 100 dead and 400-000 hospitalized in 1992 after the system failed to remove Cryptosporidium from the water supply. The treated water met all drinking water guidelines.
* Sydney's Prospect Water Treatment Plant and the 1998 water crisis. Say no more.

* Noosa Sewerage Treatment Plant built in 1996. The plant that was described as being state of the art has had a number of failures, not least, it was supposed to clean up Burgess Creek . It failed to do so resulting in the EPA directing the council in 2005 to build an ocean outfall. The green council ignored their advice.

TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT USED FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES ON GOLF COURSES"

* Were you aware that tests for e-coli in the ponds at Qld Golf Clubs using treated sewage effluent for irrigation purposes were well above the recommended levels and off the planet ?

DUAL RETICULATION:

* In 12005, at Rouse Hill, Sydney, Australia's first dual- reticulation system, 80 families were drinking treated sewage effluent because of cross contamination. The system is also subsidized. The system has been a failure.
* Overseas, a major country banned dual reticulation because of continued cross contaminations.

AMERICA:

California has been reusing treated sewage effluent for irrigation for the past 100 years. Recently, the government put restrictions on all new dual reticulation systems. They now have to be sub- surface, i.e. below the ground and not used as is happening in Australia, for car washing and hosing.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION- WHO:

WHO has stated that further research is required to evaluate the acute and chronic {long term} health effects of chemical compounds such as the trace organics that could be present in reclaimed sewage effluent, before potable reuse is considered acceptable. Furthermore, conventional water quality standards should not be applied to reclaimed water.

Despite the above statement, proponents of potable reuse both in Australia and the USA always use the standard drinking water guidelines as reference to the safety of treated wastewater.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL –USA:

"Indirect Potable Reuse is an option of last resort".

" However, limitations in methodology and testing have prevented many from within the scientific and technical community from issuing absolute statements that planned potable reuse carries no adverse health effect implications. No national standards exist for the variety of contaminants {many of them poorly characterized } that may be present in potable water derived from treated municipal wastewater".

Remember two things. One, what is planned here is the use of sewage sourced from industry, hospital, abattoir and homes, where the above only uses municipal-

household wastes. Second, Dr Greg Leslie, a proponent of potable reuse, and used to promote it at Toowoomba has already given viewers a 100% guarantee on the SBS Insight Program that all contaminants will be removed, a guarantee that was never allowed to be challenged.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA 2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE; HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR WATER REUSE:

"Despite a long history of water reuse in California, the question of *safety* of water reuse is still difficult to define and delineation of *acceptable* health risks has been hotly debated".

TUCSON – SAN DIEGO - 5th Jan 2006:

" A growing anxiety seems to be gripping residents of southwestern states frightened by the prospect of water reuse. In San Diego, members of the Association of Concerned Taxpayers {ACT}has started a court action against the city's water department, charging it with planning to secretly pump treated wastewater into the city's reservoirs---".

REMINDS ME OF THIS STRATEGY, CABOOLTURE, MARCHY, CALOUNDRA, GOULBOURN AND TOOWOOMBA .

"Over in Arizona, Tuscon residents fear that a proposed recycling plant might affect their sexuality after academics at the University of Arizona discovered a 500% increase in female hormones for male fish living in treated wastewater. Researchers attribute the change, in part, to endocrine disrupters from estrogen found in the wastewater".

ISRAEL:

Despite recycling most of their wastewater, none is used for drinking purposes.

AUSTRALIA:

Woolworths and Coles purchase vegetables eaten raw that have been irrigated by above ground spray irrigation. Consuming treated sewage effluent in this way is against some religions. It is appalling that this practice is condoned despite that fact that the consumer is unaware that they may be consuming treated sewage effluent.

DR SOPHIA DIMITRIADIS – AUSTRALIAN PARTLIAMENTARY FELLOW'S RESEARCH: AUG 2005:

PLEASE READ ALL OF THE DOCUMENT:

Worldwide, guidelines state that the best quality source water should always be used for potable purposes.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL UNIT AND ANZECC SECRETARIAT :

The above strategy was formed out of the 1992 United Nations Rio 'Earth' Summit, with Environment Australia's Intergovernmental Unit and ANZECC Secretariat promoting and coordinating policy and advice about ecologically sustainable development, about environmental activity across the three spheres of government, and in regard to interagency environmental and sustainability matters.

Taking into account the Units work and influence over all three levels of government over the past fourteen years, the fact that the CSIRO, National Competition Council, Natural Heritage Trust have all been used by the Federal Government to further the strategy to force the introduction of treated sewage effluent directly into the public's drinking water supply mains, and more recently, the National Water Commission, with the aid of intimidation and threats to hold back funding for water supply initiatives unless they are to be used for recycling {drinking}purposes, it makes the Prime Minister and Cabinet's statement that water supply is a state issue and the Federal Government cannot intervene, a lie.

QUESTION:
No *Australian Federal, State or Local government have built any new water supply dams to supply an urban area, since 1989, a sixteen year period, despite the fact that Australia suffers droughts and an ever increasing population.*
WHY, because soon or later, Australian cities and shires must begin to run out of water making direct potable reuse the only available option, especially if you condemn desalination as another option as is being done in Sydney.

The following submission is based upon eight years of extensive investigations and research into this issue. I believe that it proves that a strategy does exist, exposes those involved, the extent to which it has been implemented, that the public has been misinformed, that the intention has always been to introduce treated sewage effluent directly, not indirectly as the public has been told, into the public's drinking water supply mains **AND THAT THIS IS ABOUT MONEY, NOT THE ENVIRONMENT.**

THE $550-000 CALOUNDRA / MAROOCHY STRATEGIC WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY:
My submission includes the above study in detail. In a direct response to my correspondence on this issue, the Queensland State Government changed the FOI Legislation, perverted the course of justice and now has total control over the justice system in order to gain protection from prosecution. More recently, changes are being made to the criminal code to prevent prosecution of politicians for lying to a government committee. THAT'S THE STATE WE ARE IN.

CONSORTIUM FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT- {CIRM}:
CIRM, initiated in 1993, was a direct result of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It is a partnership including CSIRO, Qld DPI, DNR, EPA, Griffith University and University of Queensland. CIRM, managed by DNR manages the $1 million Mobile Advanced Water Recycling Demonstration Plant built in 2001 and located at Pine Rivers.

Documentation obtained under FOI states that the plants design was taken directly from the Australian Water and Wastewater Association's 1995 Direct Potable Reuse Demonstration project. CIRM has been carrying out research into direct potable reuse since 1995. The processes are only used for direct potable reuse. Qld EPA owns the plant.

FACT:

It takes seven years to plan, resume and bring on line new dams. The Direct Potable Reuse Plant is now four years ahead of any new dam, making it and desalination the only available options. The Federal Government has been fighting to force Sydney to embrace potable reuse rather than desalination.

FACTS:
Worldwide, there are over 11000 desalination plants in operation.
Worldwide, there are NO continually operating direct potable reuse in operation treating sewage sourced from industry, homes, abattoirs and hospitals.

FACT:
Direct Potable Reuse as is planned here, using treated sewage effluent sourced from industry, hospitals, homes and abattoirs, would be a world first. Its introduction would involve ourselves, our children and grandchildren as guinea pigs in a world first intergenerational experiment.

FACT:
Potable Reuse of Treated Sewage Effluent is unsustainable. Only a % of the sewage is treatable and reusable. The loss is suspected at around 40 to 60 %.
Another water supply source would be needed within ten years as our present population increases.

FACT:
No real time long term health studies have ever been carried out on any community consuming treated sewage effluent directly.

FACT:
The United Nations states that the community MUST be in full agreement before potable reuse can even be considered. Environment Australia, Federal, State and Local Governments have continually ignored that requirement, more proof that the strategy does exist and that nothing will stop it.

FACT:
Our dams are not failing. They are the reasons why we are surviving through our present drought today. What has failed is the government's responsibility to provide adequate water supply infrastructure to meet demand. Not to do so would be criminally negligent.

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY:
The original strategy set out to force State and Local Governments to sell off their $80 billion of water and sewerage infrastructure to the private sector. The National Competition Policy failed to achieve that objective with several councils refusing to privatize and instead corporatised their infrastructure.

The National Competition Council decided in favor of Services Sydney's application to access Sydney Water's sewage mains despite the fact that the application left no doubt that the company intends building infrastructure to treat 100% of Sydney's sewage, no

competition there, that it is impossible to separate the effluent, that is individually connect homes to one or the others infrastructure, or that the company intends inserting treated sewage effluent into Sydney residents drinking water supply mains.

NATIONAL SECURITY:
The NCC also failed to consider that the Australian company, with African investors and others including Peter Ivany and Macquarie Bank, will own and control Australia's future drinking water supply under this proposal, what above National Security?

I have much more extensive information on this issue, including that supporting what I have stated in this submission.