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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.
 DATE: 29th Jan 2006.
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Dear Roxanne Leguen,

Could you please attach this information to my recent Submission because it is highly relevant.

The enclosed articles, 'Turnbull Hoses Down Recycled Effluent Fears' {The Courier Mail}, 'Weather Channel Water Debate To Screen Today' {The Chronicle} and 'The Who's Who of Political Donors-2004/5, also {The Courier Mail}, appeared shortly after I posted my submission to the Committee in relation to the Federal Government's strategy to force the introduction of treated sewage effluent sourced from industry, homes, abattoirs and hospitals, {a world first}, directly into Australia's drinking water supply mains.

Macquarie Bank donations 2004-5:

\$40,000 to the ALP {National},
 # \$9000 to the ALP {Qld},
 # \$57,200 to the Liberal Party {National},
 # \$27000 to the Liberal Party {Qld},
 # \$10,250 to the National Party {National}
 # \$2900 to the National Party {Qld}.

Macquarie Bank is a shareholder in Services Sydney {Radical Water Credit Idea - SMH 7th Aug 2003}, the company that wants to introduce treated sewage effluent directly into Sydney's drinking water supply mains. Macquarie Bank carried out the 'feasibility study with Connell Wagner, jointly for Services Sydney and Sydney Water. Services Sydney's Application to the NCC states:-

"No significant impediments or flaws have been identified. There are significant potential benefits for Sydney Water from each of the system elements across all of the technical, environmental, social, regulatory and project financing aspects".

Subsequent to the release of the Study, Sydney Water terminated the Heads of Agreement.

Macquarie Bank is involved in the proposed Desalination Plant in Sydney. The company has a two way bet on either the introduction of potable reuse or desalination, but has NO interest in dams to supply urban areas.

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Federally, Liberal, National and Labor Parties support potable reuse, while in Qld Labor has been driving the strategy since 1994 to force its introduction through CIRM. The Peter Beattie Government supports Toowoomba Council's proposal to reuse treated sewage effluent for drinking purposes.

Macquarie Bank, through Macquarie Infrastructure has the most to benefit when Australia's \$80 billion of water and wastewater infrastructure is privatized. The National Competition Policy – Council, was instrumental in achieving that objective through the Federal Government's strategy to condemn dams and ocean outfalls in order to force the introduction of treated sewage effluent directly into the community's drinking water mains.

I believe that the articles and my response should be attached to my submission, because of Malcolm Turnbull, an outspoken proponent of potable reuse, promotion to the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and adviser on water policy.

His statement in the article that *"Australian towns and cities will be forced to use recycled water for drinking in the future"*, leaves no doubt that a strategy does exist to force its introduction. This will happen, not because of climatic changes, as Malcolm states, but because of the failure of all three levels of government to build more dams over the past 16 year period.

Furthermore, the decision to use treated sewage effluent for drinking purposes is not, as Malcolm states, a decision for each local community. Clearly, the decision to introduce this concept at Toowoomba in 2005 was made by the Toowoomba Council with support from Federal, State and Local politicians. As with Caboolture in 1996 the council made the decision to introduce direct potable reuse and informed the community after the fact.

FOX WEATHER CHANNEL:

I have just viewed the Fox Weather Channel's program which gave viewers the chance to vote for or against desalination and have already faxed a complaint to the channel for what I believe was a misleading and deceitful program. One that progressed the Federal Government's strategy to force the introduction of potable reuse.

First, viewers were unaware that a vote against desalination was in fact a vote in favor of drinking treated sewage effluent. The program continually stated that the intentions were for non potable reuse { Water recycling}.

Second, Jeff Angel, Total Environment Center was instrumental in 1994 in including conditions in the Special Sydney Water Corporation Act and license that forced Sydney Water to plan to introduce treated sewage effluent into Warrangamba Dam for Planned Indirect Potable Reuse by 2010. He spoke on the Program.

Third, one of the three experts on the panel promoting desalination had a distinct conflict of interest in that he was also involved in water recycling for drinking purposes.

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Four, the Director of Services Sydney, the company that intends introducing treated sewage effluent into Sydney's drinking water supply mains was also present but failed to inform viewers of his company's intentions.

Above, is only a part of my complaint.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the text "Above, is only a part of my complaint."

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Weather Channel water debate to screen today

Subscribers can vote on arguments

By PETER HADWICK

IT'S A hot issue that's reached boiling point... if you have the water to boil, that is!

Water, the lack of it and what steps to take to ensure we have a supply for the future has dominated public debate in recent times.

Nowhere more so than across Toowoomba and the Darling Downs where dams and creeks continue to dry up at an alarming rate.

Just this week the Prime Minister stepped into the debate, coming out in favour of recycling water as opposed to desalination.

And, today you can add your voice to the nationwide debate.

Pay TV's The Weather Channel will today screen a debate between a panel of experts for and against the desalination proposal which will also include the alternative of recycled water.

A jury of 12 people chosen by an independent research firm will hand down a verdict at the conclusion of the show.

In December, television presenter



Toowoomba Mayor Cr Dianne Thorley and Ian Leslie discussing the council's Water Futures recycling proposal.

PHOTO: BEVERLY LACEY

and journalist Ian Leslie visited his former home town of Toowoomba as part of The Weather Channel's *Running on Empty* series which looks at all facets of the water crisis.

While here he met with Toowoomba Mayor Cr Dianne Thorley on the issue and a quote from Cr Thorley is

included in today's televised debate. The debate, "Desalination: Good Sense or Nonsense?" premieres at 4pm (Queensland time) and will be repeated at 8am (again, Qld time) tomorrow.

Subscribers to digital Pay TV can vote via The Weather Channel's

voting application using their remote control - pressing the green button for good sense, red for nonsense or yellow if undecided.

Those without Pay TV can vote via a text message to 19 11 19 with "G" for good sense, "N" for nonsense and "U" for undecided.

LA water treatment different says expert

NEWSPAPER articles in Los Angeles have reported claims that traces of prescription drugs have been detected in recycled water.

Citizens Against Drinking Sewage co-ordinator Rosemary Morley said the articles were not enough to doubt assurances from Toowoomba City Council that a local plan to recycle sewage would produce drinking water free of chemicals.

However, council's water expert Alan Kleinschmidt said it was wrong to compare the LA results with Toowoomba's plan.

Mr Kleinschmidt said the water tested in LA had not gone through an advanced water treatment plant as was proposed for Toowoomba.

"Contrary to what is suggested in the LA Times article, the water was treated in a conventional waste-water treatment plant with the addition of sand filtration," Mr Kleinschmidt said.

"It is not an advanced water treatment plant of the type operated by Orange County, or proposed for Toowoomba."

The LA Times article said new technology had enabled the detection of traces of whatever pills people were taking.

But Mr Kleinschmidt said advanced water treatment reduced such chemicals to less than detectable levels.

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Turnbull hoses down recycled effluent fears

Amanda Gearing



He said that a controversial proposal by Toowoomba City Council to make up a quarter of its drinking water supplies with recycled effluent appeared to be "a very sensible, safe answer to the city's water shortage".

THE Federal Government's new water policy adviser Malcolm Turnbull, pictured, believes Australian towns and cities will be forced to use recycled water for drinking in the future because of shortages induced by climate change.

Mr Turnbull, the new parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister with particular responsibility for water policy, said he believed it was safe to introduce recycled water into the drinking water stream.

However the decision to recycle effluent for drinking water was a decision for each local community, he said yesterday.

"I am an advocate of recycling. I believe it is safe to introduce into the drinking water stream," he said.

"I support it being used for drinking if circumstances make that the best solution and the local community favours it."

In some situations, recycled water could be used for non-potable purposes, freeing up potable-quality water without residents having to confront the "yuk" factor.

Tensions are running high in Toowoomba as Mayor Di Thorley champions the project, paving the way for Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Sydney to introduce recycled effluent into drinking water supplies.

Mr Turnbull said he had been misrepresented in an article in a Toowoomba newspaper on Tuesday which alleged he had "done a U-turn" and now opposed recycling effluent for drinking water.

Opponents of the project claim there are cost-effective long-term alternative drinking water supplies.

Several Toowoomba councillors and local politicians who had supported the council's application have withdrawn their support for the \$68 million project, which will cost an extra \$70 million if 700ha of salt evaporation ponds are required.

Pigeon coup as bloggers go sky high

GOT your own blog yet? If not you'd better hurry up if you don't want to be beaten to it by a flock of pigeons, according to *New Scientist*.

Later this year 20 of the birds will take to the skies above San Jose, California, each carrying a GPS receiver, air pollution sensors and a basic cellphone, the magazine says. They will measure levels of pollutants they encounter, and beam back their findings as text messages to a blog in real time.

"We are combining an air pollution sensor with a home-made cellphone," says interdisciplinary artist and researcher Beatriz da Costa of the University of California, Irvine, who came up with the idea of the pigeon blog with students Cina Hazegh and Kevin Ponto.

New Scientist says in its February 4 issue that the team has built a prototype of the pigeons kit containing a cellphone circuit board with SIM card and communication chips, a GPS receiver and carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide sensors. They now plan to squeeze all the components on to a single board small enough for the birds to carry in a backpack.

The pigeon bloggers are due to be released at the Inter-Society for Electronic Arts annual symposium in San Jose in August. The data they send back will be displayed on the blog in the form of an interactive map.

Microsoft gives gamers 360 run-around

AUSTRALIAN gamers would have to wait an extra three weeks until they can get their hands on the new Xbox 360 system, Microsoft said this week.

The next-generation video game console was originally scheduled to hit Australian stores on March 2.

However, Microsoft said international purchases had pushed back Australia's delivery until March 23.

"This is a short-term manufacturing challenge, and steps have been taken to increase supply," the company said.

"The new launch dates have been set due to the unprecedented global consumer demand (and) the challenges in ramping (up) supply for a complex product like the Xbox 360."

Australian stores are encouraging consumers to put in pre-orders. When the Xbox 360 was released in the US in November it sold out in days.

Some analysts say the Xbox 360 is the fastest-selling video game console in history. By June, it is expected between 4.5 million and 5.5 million will have been delivered worldwide.

Australia's late delivery will not help the system's name, which has been tarnished by concerns of overheating and game freezing.

Sony's rival PlayStation 3 is due out later this year.

- Patrick Watson

Smart keyless entry and engine start system

Dark silver alloy wheels

and now we announce a... extras. It's an exclusive

oom. Mazda



THE WHO'S WHO OF POLITICAL DONORS 2004/05

WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN

Donor	Recipient	Amount
John Michael Ashcroft	Liberal Party (national)	\$1,000,000
Richard Pratt	ALP (national)	\$100,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$200,000
	National Party (national)	\$20,000
Edoy Broves	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$10,000
	National Party (national)	\$5,000
Robert Gerard	Liberal Party (SA)	\$162,000

DEFENCE COMPANIES

Donor	Recipient	Amount
Bentley Commercial Pty Ltd	ALP (national)	\$43,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$70,000
	National Party (national)	\$16,700
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$13,000

TOBACCO COMPANIES

Donor	Recipient	Amount
British American Tobacco Australia	Liberal Party (national)	\$227,000
Philip Morris	Liberal Party (national)	\$42,500
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$4,000
	National Party (national)	\$20,000
	National Party (Qld)	\$5,000

DEVELOPERS

Donor	Recipient	Amount
Lend Lease Holdings	ALP (national)	\$50,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$77,000
	National Party (national)	\$10,000
Mirvac	ALP (Qld)	\$31,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$20,000
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$8,000
Davies	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$3,000
	ALP (national)	\$1,000
Thless	Liberal Party (national)	\$10,000
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$1,000
	National Party (national)	\$15,000
	National Party (Qld)	\$5,000
	ALP (Qld)	\$8,000

BANKS

Donor	Recipient	Amount
Macquarie	ALP (National)	\$30,000
	ALP (Qld)	\$9,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$11,200
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$27,000
	National Party (national)	\$10,200
	National Party (Qld)	\$2,000
Suncorp Metway	ALP (Qld)	\$7,750
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$12,000
	National Party (national)	\$750
ANZ	ALP (national)	\$50,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$100,000

BIG BUSINESS

Donor	Recipient	Amount
Woolworths	ALP (national)	\$135,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$7,000
Coles Myer	ALP (national)	\$50,000
	ALP (Qld)	\$5,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$50,000
	Liberal Party (Qld)	\$2,000
	National Party (national)	\$17,500
	National Party (Qld)	\$2,000
Newcrest	ALP (national)	\$27,500
	Liberal Party (national)	\$7,500
Coca Cola Amatil	ALP (national)	\$60,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$100,000
	National Party (national)	\$15,000
Lend Lease	ALP (national)	\$100,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$200,000
Village Roadshow	ALP (national)	\$200,000
	ALP (Qld)	\$10,000
	Liberal Party (national)	\$200,275

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