

TO: Hon Senator Rachel Siewert, Chair – Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee.

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

DATE: 11<sup>th</sup> Sep 2006.  
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SUBJECT: Concerns and issues with the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee- Water Policy Initiatives – Interim Report – Sep 2006.

Dear Senator,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Senate's 'Water Policy Initiatives- Interim Report' – Sep 2006. The Senate's 'Interim Report' is further confirmation, as I stated in my submission, of the existence of a government strategy initiated in 1992, involving the Federal Government, Australian conservation movement and certain Transnational companies involved in water and wastewater treatment, to force the introduction of treated sewage effluent sourced from hospitals, industry, homes and abattoirs, directly inserted into both Sydney and South East Queensland's drinking water supply mains for human consumption.

Under the heading:

**'Water Recycling'**

1.29

*"The Committee held a public hearing in Toowoomba, a city that has experienced ——— and the only Australian city to have considered a serious 'direct' potable reuse proposal, ———."*

AND

1.30

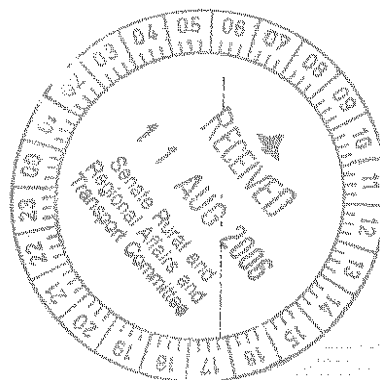
*"The direct potable reuse campaign ———."*

1.31

*"Direct potable reuse is only one of a range of approaches to water recycling, ———."*

**TRUTH OR LIE:**

{1} The Toowoomba plebiscite {referendum} was NEVER about direct potable reuse. Neither the Federal, State or Local Governments ran their 'yes' campaign or went to the poll promoting direct potable reuse {pipe to pipe}, or treated sewage effluent directly inserted into the public's drinking water supply mains. The 'yes' campaign was based solely upon Planned Indirect Potable Reuse {through a dam before reuse}.



{2} Toowoomba was not the first Australian City to have considered a serious 'direct' potable reuse proposal. In fact, it was the fourth. In 1995 the \$550-000 'Caloundra/ Maroochy Strategic Wastewater Management Study' was initiated. The study included a \$250-000 community consultation component involving 60 Focus meetings which were carried out in 1996. The Study was adopted for planning purposes for the next 50 years in Aug 1997 and resulted in plans to build direct potable reuse plants in both city and shire. (I have those plans).

I'm not surprised that this study was removed from your list as it was corrupt and the council was forced to reject potable reuse in Oct 1998 after receiving petitions with 8000 signatures against this proposal based upon technical, health, scientific and environmental concerns. The study cost far more to carry out than Toowoomba's plebiscite and was more extensive.

{3} In 1996 the 'South Caboolture Water Reuse Strategy' was initiated. The strategy resulted in Caboolture Council publicly stating that they were to be the first council in Australia to introduce planned indirect potable reuse. Documentation obtained under FOI confirms that direct potable reuse was to be introduced soon after. Caboolture council was forced by their community to reject potable reuse in late 1996.

Unlike Toowoomba, both Caboolture, Caloundra and Maroochy residents rejected potable reuse based upon scientific, technical, health and environmental grounds. Some of those included, but were not restricted to endocrine disrupting chemicals including nonyl phenol, phthalates and biphenol A, pharmaceutical drugs, the lowering of men's semen quality over the past 25 years, the inability to remove all contaminants, test for all major contaminants or the ability to even identify them.

{4} In March 2004 Services Sydney applied to the NCC to access Sydney Water's sewerage system. The company wants to directly insert treated sewage effluent into Sydney's drinking water supply mains.

The Federal Government strategy is about looking after mates. Macquarie bank part owns Services Sydney which also has South African investors.

The 'Interim Report states:- *"during the current session of Parliament new legislation for third party access will be introduced to enable the private sector to access effluent in Sydney Water and Hunter Water pipes for recycling."*

This is very interesting considering that water is a states responsibility, another lie. The legislation is aimed squarely at the NSW government's rejection of Services Sydney's application to access Sydney Water's sewerage system and directly insert treated sewage effluent into Sydney's drinking water supply mains.

*The reasons behind the Federal Government's strategy is privatisation, money, power and control. Take the company Services Sydney for example. Once access is granted by way of Federal Legislation, Services Sydney will then own, control and set the price of Sydney's future drinking water supply. That Senators, is a matter of National Security.*

***How many former politicians now work for Macquarie Bank?***

If the good Senators believe that the issue of water is made more difficult by the complexity and uncertainty of the science of assessing the resource, then I can assure you after nine years of research and investigations on this issue, potable reuse of treated sewage effluent is by far more complex and far more uncertain because of a lack of good science, a lack of data on this issue and because what is planned here is a world first. It's introduction will involve Australians as guinea pigs in a world first intergenerational experiment.

***DR GREG LESLIE:***

DR Greg Leslie, associate professor in the school of chemical engineering and industrial chemistry at the University of NSW, was used at Toowoomba to promote planned indirect potable reuse. I appeared on the SBS Insight Program in 2005 with Greg and after the program I asked why he would promote direct potable reuse. He stated that he would NEVER promote direct potable reuse, as indirect allows time to detect any contaminants in the dam that may have passed through the processes before reuse.

*Ask him.*

***TRUTH OR LIES:***

**GREG HUNT, FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2005 Greg Hunt, in response to my letter to the Courier Mail editor, under the title 'Water For Industry' stated:- "*Contrary to claims made by Laurence Jones, neither I nor the Federal Government wants Australians to drink treated sewage effluent. Our objective is to recycle this water for use in industry and agriculture.*"

The Federal Government's strategy was originally controlled in 1993 through 'Environment Australia's Intergovernmental Unit and ANZECC Secretariat. It has been progressed through the NCP, NCC, COAG, Natural Heritage Trust, National Water Commission, Greg Hunt and now merchant banker, Malcolm Turnbull. In 2005, it was Liberal Senator Santo Santoro who informed Toowoomba residents about the council's intentions to introduce planned indirect potable reuse.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

More recently, despite Greg Hunt's letter to the editor, the Prime Minister came out in favour of the introduction of treated sewage effluent for drinking purposes. This lie by the government can now be added to the others, children thrown overboard, Iraq has weapons of mass destruction and there will be no GST under my government.

Toowoomba Council also unfairly used the CSIRO by promoting them as being a project partner and CSIRO scientists were quoted as supporting potable reuse. The CSIRO some months later, too late to make a difference and after I pointed it out, informed the council that was not the case and the CSIRO was independent. The Federal government was aware of and used the CSIRO to support potable reuse. Still not convinced, both the

Federal and State Governments stood by and did nothing when the council supported the 'no' vote with \$450-000 while the 'yes' vote got \$00000.

By the way, Israel does not reuse treated sewage effluent as drinking water and Perth's proposed aquifer will result in the treated sewage effluent entering the drinking water supply in 30 years.

1.34

The 'Interim Report also states:- "*Elsewhere in the country, treated town water is routinely returned to various rivers and streams ———as it would assist in making the concept of using recycled water more acceptable——.*"

Correct me if I'm wrong, but did you mean to say, treated sewage effluent? Treated Town Water is the treated water in the water supply used for drinking purposes. If so, you also need to state that neither the sewerage treatment plants nor the water treatment plants have processes that remove pharmaceutical drugs, chemicals including endocrine disrupters, or a lot of other nasties.

No one knows what the effect is on human health or the environment, but I can guarantee you that nonyl phenol, a known endocrine disrupting chemical in animals and humans will be present. It is described as inadvertent and unadvertised and I believe you can see why. Any testing will result in law suits.

Toowoomba Mayor also states that seeing one or more advanced water recycling plants in operation would help people make a decision based on facts rather than emotion.

Senators, are you not aware that in 2001 the Qld State Government built a \$1 million mobile advanced water recycling demonstration plant. It is owned by Qld EPA, managed by Qld DNR for CIRM and located at Pine Rivers, in Qld. Are you also unaware that in 1998 the Qld State Government also initiated a water education program.

The program later became the AWA, We All Use Water Education Program. Their coathanger poster includes a diagram with planned indirect and direct potable reuse illustrated as being a part of the Total Water Cycle. The education program was part funded by the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust as a part of their 1992 strategy.

As another part of the government's strategy, in 1993 the Centre for Integrated Resource Management (CIRM) was initiated. Now called the Consortium, CIRM is a partnership including CSIRO, Griffith University, University of Queensland, Qld EPA, DNR and DPI. CIRM has been carrying out research into direct potable reuse since 1995. CIRM is managed by Qld DNR.

"Politicians of all persuasions are on the public record as backing this idea". Politicians and the public have relied upon misleading information on this issue supplied by the media, ABC, SBS, Fox Weather Channel, AWA, The Courier Mail, Sydney Morning

(4)

Herald, Australian conservation groups, Federal, State and Local governments. The media in general, is yet to truthfully or fully inform the public on this issue.

*Regards, .*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "Regards, ." text.A handwritten number "5" enclosed within a hand-drawn circle. The number and circle are drawn in black ink and are located at the bottom center of the page.

## Water for industry

CONTRARY to claims made by Laurence Jones (left), July 2005, the Federal Government wants Australians to drink treated sewage effluent. Our objective is to recycle this water for use in industry and agriculture.

There are 12 oceanic islands in Australia pumping out about 150 billion litres of recyclable water every year. Industry and agriculture accounts for almost 90 per cent of Australia's water needs. Using high quality recycled water for industry and agriculture will not meet the demands of these sectors. It also will ensure that we do not use precious drinking water for industry.

Our aim is simple: clean up our beaches and the waste of a precious resource and provide water for industry and agriculture. Greg Hunt, federal parliamentary secretary for the Environment, has said:

*CONTRARY TO CLAIMS MADE BY LAURENCE JONES (LEFT), JULY 2005, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS AUSTRALIANS TO DRINK TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT.*

## Rivers of hormones are feminising fish

ANANDA ERIEN

ONE third of male fish in English rivers have changed sex due to "gender-bender" chemicals seeping into the system, according to a study published yesterday.

Female hormones from contraceptive and hormone replacement therapy pills are being washed into the rivers and streams, causing male fish to produce eggs.

Research watchdog the Environment Agency is looking into the problem of endocrine disruptors — chemicals that affect the hormone systems of an organism.

The most common form of damage is to the reproductive systems and sexual development.

Many chemicals have been identified as causing endocrine-disrupting characteristics.

But two particular classes of substances — alkylphenols, which are used in detergents, and phytoestrogens, which are found in some plants, have been identified as being of particular concern.

A recent survey by the Environment Agency of 160 fish at 18 sites across England and Wales found a third of all male fish displayed "intersex" conditions, which are caused by the presence of oestrogen in the water.

The agency aims to formulate a regulatory strategy to protect fish stocks.

27-7-06

## Courier Mail Toowoomba must vote 'yes' on water

THE conservative Darling Downs region of Toowoomba, best known for its spectacular Carnival of Flowers, becomes the first Australian battleground in the debate about using directly treated wastewater when the people vote in a referendum on Saturday. Toowoomba and New Onions have never wanted to dump sewage on land. Queenslanders have been smugged from waterways and which treated effluent has been discharged. Toowoomba is the only town in Queensland where the effluent is directly recycled into the city. The recycling scheme is one of the most advanced in the world's most arid cities.

The case for using the precious commodity more than once is an alternative to the current wasteful once-off use before disposal has an array of supporters. Prime Minister John Howard's Labor federal water spokesman Anthony Albanese is another Queensland Conservation, the Queensland Greens, CleanUp Australia and a range of scientists and wastewater experts at the University of Queensland accept it as a viable solution. Premier Peter Beattie has moved from describing the idea of replenishing dams with recycled water as an "alternative solution" to announcing yesterday that he may go to the next state election seeking a mandate for such a policy to combat the crisis in the parched southeast. Toowoomba votes 'yes'. But Toowoomba Mayor Di Tierney has been left to carry the 'yes' case almost alone. And she has now so far failed to attract and sustain the momentum campaign for decades.

The historic local Nationalists have shown they are men of the past rather than advocates for the future, choosing to become withering opponents on the basis of ratepayer petitions against the proposal. Federal Liberal MP Ian Macfarlane's opposition was instrumental in making the contest for a referendum on the issue. He asked Carreras for a \$2.1 million grant underwriting the project, and he told you. The city's richest man, former mayor and National Party state MP Chris Bergmore, has committed a \$25,000 anti-research campaign budget. He helped fund an eight-page "no" case in the city's newspaper, the *Beagle*, a land developer made much of his money helping fill Toowoomba with people. His smart, digitised campaign for him no credit. All manner of arguments against recycling have been thrown into a score campaign. But the water is considered safe, but look what happened, it's a high-tech solution. Last, pulling allegations have been taken to the Queensland Misconduct Commission, the council has been accused of offering inducements to get 'yes' case workers quickly conceived alternative proposals have been thrown into the public arena.

But every day water is the only viable solution for many parched Australian centres. Toowoomba residents must have the courage to accept the challenge and make the change. Their future may depend on it.

A 2 WEEK AGO