

**Wendy A. Bunce**  
"Tareelaroi", Moree NSW 2400  
Tel/Fax: +61 2-67549639 Mob: 0407119521  
E-mail [bunces@bigpond.com](mailto:bunces@bigpond.com)

Fax for the attention of the Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra

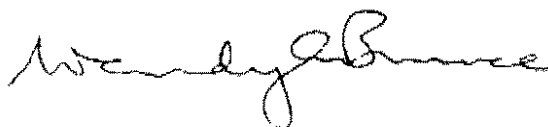
18<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Dear Members of the Senate Committee,

Please see enclosed copy of my latest 'thought report', titled 'Industrialized Earth's 'use by' date' for your perusal.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Bunce

N.B. Total of two (2) pages faxed, including this cover page.

### Industrialized Earth's 'use by' date.

I hope I am wrong, but I suspect that our industrialized world as we know it today, may be sadly nearing its use by date and the unbending determining factor is water availability. I feel a great sense of empathy with the quotation of writer Derek Bok printed in the Collins desk calendar. His quotation for today, 17.09.2006 reads, "If you think education is expensive – try ignorance."

I cannot think of a more apt description for the current materialistic philosophy of our own lifestyles and our government's line and in fact our whole voracious addiction for natural resource extraction to satisfy our insatiable appetite for huge wealth from exported trade. But does it come at a terrible cost, water loss?

Without recognizing the basic facts necessary for maintaining any resource be it a child's piggy bank or our life dependant water resources, if one keeps using the money from the piggy bank, not only will the child not save any money for the future, but worse, very soon the piggy bank will have absolutely no money left in it. If we apply that same simple principle and we allow governments to permit any industry to use up our fresh water resources at the current rate, the result may be that our children and even many of us could die, very painfully, from thirst.

In effect, right throughout our industrialized world, many governments are allowing the resources trade to in fact expend our children's life dependant water bank. It is my belief that if this sort of unquestioned regulatory strategy continues unabated, we and our children may perhaps risk the loss of a sustainable, available or affordable water future.

For every sort of raw material extracted from our Earth's crust, enormous quantities of precious fresh water may be lost in that type of production. What if every measure of Nature's storehouse of water, metals, minerals, oil and especially coal and gas extraction has a huge and extremely detrimental influence on our world's most precious groundwater supplies?

The simple facts are that this planets weather is getting hotter all over the world and much worse, some daily temperatures in this country seem likely to increase to unbearable degrees. In Australia, we are particularly vulnerable to decreasing and erratic rainfall and thus I believe that it is sheer madness to continue to ignore the fact that our country urgently needs to be preserving and conserving the existing water resources that we have left, not simply using them up for short term economic gains. **How do we ensure environmental balance for our economic needs versus secure long term water availability?**

I am loath to think of the real price that our children may have to pay for our ignorance. Wouldn't it be better to try to do something worthwhile now whilst we still have a little bit of water and time left? At least let us try to bring about some major attitudinal changes to the way we use water in commerce in general. The current system is clearly unsustainable and cannot last because water, like everything else, is a very finite resource and we all need water to survive.

We need to protect our available fresh water resources now or else we may have no guarantee of a safe future for our children in this increasingly hot, arid land. Nature provided us with splendid rivers and gentle underground streams and I believe we must learn to respect her natural limitations and not expect to use those fragile water resources for the expansion of our industrialized hedonism.

The problem is huge, there are no easy answers and no winners, but it cannot be ignored any more.