

# THE MURRAY - DARLING RIVERS

## A SOLUTION

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Every Australian who lives along the Darling/Murray river system wants the river to be healthy, full of fish and still able to



provide the cities, towns and farms with water. Not one of them wants the river catchment used as an excuse to stop farming or impose huge water taxes, big irrigation license fees, minuscule quotas, and outlandish recreational fees

and restrictions. The desires of all can be met by a scheme so simple that it is hard to believe it was not done years ago. The plan is to inject water into the river source. The water is there and we have the man power and resources to do it.

### Saving the Rivers

We can save the rivers by increasing the water flow. This overall plan is to desalinate the River system by pumping fresh water into the headwaters of the river in Qld. The salt goes. The algae goes. The crops get water. The fish don't die. The river is saved. The greenies are happy. The farmers are allowed to earn a living, and the towns along the Murray in SA, western NSW and southern rural Qld will all prosper. We need to introduce sensible green policies. Help the



people along the Murray Darling rivers to provide jobs for our youth and adults, reduce taxes and boost the national economy. Coal powered stations have to be capable of producing the peak load but they work better on a constant load. Hydro generators work well on any load and they can be used as a pump to lift water.

### Energy and Cost

The surplus energy of a coal powered station can push water high in off peak load periods, and let it fall during peak loads. This is how the Snowy works. The peak load hydro power station requires no power source so it's cheap to build. A 300 megawatt coal powered station costs \$800 million. This plan doesn't require a new power station. It's already there and operating with huge unused capacity during off peak periods.

### Geography

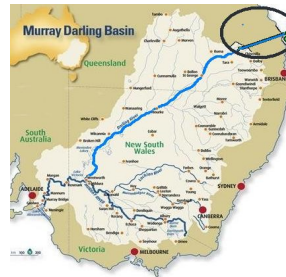
Fraser Island has a high annual rainfall and is only 200 km from the headwaters of the Murray-Darling system. This gives it a water catchment equal to the low rainfall of the larger Darling catchment. The water from Fraser Island currently flows into the sea - just wasted.



The Fraser Island water is so pure that it is exported as pure spring water (with no chemicals). The Tarong coal fired station is very close to the proposed project, with others at Biloela and Millmerran close by.

**Background** The mean flow of the Murray-Darling system has been estimated at 14,000 GL/year, that's

444 cumsecs. Fraser Island's Bogimbah Creek, at 20m x 1m at 6 km/h has been estimated at 33 cumsecs, i.e. 7.5% of the Murray-Darling system's mean flow -- and that's only one of



Fraser Island's many permanent creeks currently running out to sea. So, why not re-direct it into the Murray/Darling rivers ?

### The method

We could inject fresh water into the river at a point between Bell and Kingaroy in Qld, The Murray/Darling could give water to the inland without being so depleted that it often almost ceases to flow. The states would not need to fight for a share of the scarce water. Think of the vast volume of crystal clear fresh water rushing into the sea from Fraser Island. What would the farmers on the Murray/Darling give for that water, why should they give anything, it's there for all Australians. The Perth to Kalgoorlie pipeline was built in the horse and buggy era. The Hoover Dam in USA was put there half a century ago, and now we have many unemployed in Australia.

### The Plan

If we put a dam in the Bunya Mountains we can feed it through one vertical pipe with the electric pump at the bottom of that pipe. The pump gets its water through a gate valve on the eastern side, from Fraser Island during times when the power stations have unused generating capacity. During peak periods the gate valve is shut and



a second gate valve on the western side is opened. As the water discharges the pump generates electricity needed during peak periods. This would obviate the need to build another coal-powered station to meet current and predicted electricity needs.

The water flows into the Murray/Darling system to revitalize it on its journey to the sea in South Australia. We don't need to do earthworks on Fraser Island. We simply put a wall around the mouth of Bogimbah Creek and pump from there. The Pacific Ocean won't even notice the drop-in-the-ocean we divert. It will get to the ocean via S.A. There are about ten fresh-water creeks that could be diverted into the Murray/ Darling from Fraser Island. The island is only 14 km from the mainland. Even that first 14 km pipe would be vital. That would solve the water shortage problems for Hervey Bay city.

### Other Considerations

Instead of laying 18th century paving stones, planting shrubs and playing silly games that amuse bureaucrats, our youth could be engaged in real work getting real skills and improving their self-esteem. The training opportunities would be endless. The instructors from TAFE could be employed teaching on-the-job skills needed in the construction and to maintain and repair the equipment.



Opportunities would be created for older workers on-the-scrap-heap to train youngsters as hydraulic technicians, diesel mechanics, auto electricians, plant operators, surveyors, crane operators, welders, fitters, turners, riggers, drivers, etc. Unused earth moving equipment from every shire could be used. This is better than having equipment sitting idle and it is an inexpensive way of contributing to a

vital project. Our manufacturing industry would get a welcome boost to make pipes, pumps, structures, and footings etc. This could revitalize Australia's engineering and manufacturing industries .

**Flow On**



Temporary towns would be created. This would create employment for carpenters, and many tradesmen. Nearby rural towns will be revitalized as they supply the temporary towns. Jobs would be created in the service, entertainment, food and transport industries. Suicide rates of our youth would decrease.

**Would there be Opposition?**

Various Federal governments have had an agenda to federalise the Murray. However now the major parties are party to an international agreement to "privatise" water and make it a "commodity". This means that water is traded on the Futures Market like every other commodity. The catchments are leased or sold to the highest bidder (nearly always multi-nationals). The multinationals then sell the water to farmers and to city rate payers ... AT A PROFIT OF COURSE.

The major parties are also party to an agreement to privatise our National Parks. Fraser Island is a World Heritage listed national park. The parties cannot admit that we no longer own and/or have a say in the utilisation of resources on Fraser Island. We are putting them in a position where they have to repudiate the agreement or admit to the Australian people that it exists.



There is also a plan to expunge our national debt by handing our national parks to the IMF in a debt-for-equity swap. The parks have already been valued and are listed on the World Assets Register. Federal politicians might be embarrassed if they had to start using assets they have pledged to the IMF. Having the river system

owned by the four states and keeping it out of federal hands means there is less chance of the major parties selling the whole river system to foreign interests. They have sold our oil, gas, ports, coal, metal, gems, minerals, shipping, airports, air lines, rail, buses, trams, ferries and trucking, electricity, phone, radio, TV, newspapers, satellites, Internet services, tourist resorts, hotels, motels, marinas, major shops, banks, insurance, stock exchange, public utilities such as water sewerage, garbage, electricity distribution, our defense industries, our Army, Navy and RAAF, repair, maintenance, security, cooking, provisioning, accommodation, coastal patrols and even the workers' superannuation schemes. Even the rain that falls in water catchments has been declared to be a COMMODITY, as is now sold by illegal local councils. This means the multinationals can buy rain in good times through the Futures Market and sell it back to the farmers in bad times at a huge profit.



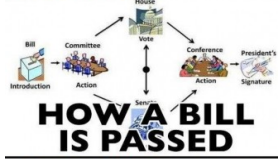
**Licensing**

Annual license fees never achieve anything but a proliferation of bureaucrats, inspectors, bean counters, legislative and regulatory nightmares and hordes of hangers - on and parasites living by making the farmers and producers' lives a

misery. Bruce Gunning, a Moree-based real estate agent who specialises in irrigation water, said: "*Water is the fastest appreciat-*

*ing asset in rural Australia."* In Moree in 1980 a standard 972M1 license was \$150,000. Two years later, they are \$1.67 million, Separating land and water titles will enable greater tradeability of the water" Mr Gunning said.

**what we see:**



**Forced Farm Closures** The gov't uses quotas to bring the farmers to poverty they cannot keep going and can't find anyone crazy enough to buy a government-strangled farm. The government then gets generous. They offer to buy the farmer out and put him and his family on the dole in some dying town. The farm is then sold to foreign interests for a pittance to be held un-productive until the multinationals own all access to water supply. In

**what politicians see:**



some cases the farmer is retained as a share-farmer to work as a slave on less that award wages at the only trade he knows.

**Control of Catchments**

The bulk of the state becomes quasi communist where the freeholder has no right to any say as to what he does on his property. To cut down a tree, poison a weed, grade a road, or dig a hole invokes fines of \$40,000 in applications, delays, obstruction and rejections. The bureaucrats make sure no mistakes are made by making sure nothing gets done. These bureaucrats and local council employees don't care if the farmers are starving to death for as long as they get their \$85,000 or more a year plus superannuation, early retirement etc.

**Privatisation of Dams and Funding**

The major parties signed a UN treaty to make water a commodity. The water from the dams paid for by taxpayers is being corporatised, privatised and foreignised. It is now a "commodity" to be sold by multi-nationals to farmers at whatever price they set.

We could avoid the cost of building two coal-powered stations that will eventually be needed for Toowoomba, Gold Coast and Brisbane areas because enough water would be lifted equal to that needed for two hydroelectric generators capable of supplying predicted peak needs for about ten years. The two coal fired stations not built would create a saving of well over \$1.5 billion. This, with the federal pledge of \$1.4 billion to solve the algae and salination problems of the Murray-Darling would go a long way towards funding the project.



**Environmental**

By using the hydro-electricity, generated by the falling water redirected from Fraser Island, because the water is taken at the point of entry to the sea there is no adverse effects on the lakes, creeks and dunes of Fraser Island. There are no huge dams to be built. A small pond deep enough to allow the pumps to take water without ingesting sand would suffice. The excess fresh water the pumps could not handle would still flow into the sea, and the Pacific Ocean would not miss it one bit, nor be affected.

Send this to every local authority and every Chamber of Commerce on the river, in the four states, asking for their backing, We know how—we have the materials—we have the manpower and We can afford it. Why is it not being done ? ..... Duh

**Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901**

Proclaimed and Gazetted **Section 100 The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade or commerce, abridge the right of a State or of the residents therein to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation.**