

Desalination Forum

14th December 2.30pm, Parliament House, Jubilee Room

Key points from Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia

Expert Water Panel

- Premier Carr set up an Expert Water Panel, saying in March 2003 "We need to make sure that major infrastructure like a major new desalination plants on the eastern coastline are never required in 20, 50 or 100 years from now."
- In papers released on the desal decision
 - By July 2004 an inter-agency Project Control Group drafted a report.
 - I, Harley and Wilson, as members of this Expert Water Panel, redrafted the report the bureaucrats tried to defang
 - DIPNR recommended to their Director General that the Report could be controversial or contentious, as it included recommendations on;
 - Environmental water flows for the Hawkesbury, Nepean, Shoalhaven and Woronora Rivers
 - Sydney Water increase spending on the leakage program
 - Increase resources to assist industry in reusing water
 - Government buildings conform to a sustainability rating
 - Government develop a policy for water recycling,
 - And others
- As a member of the Expert Water Panel we thoroughly investigated Sydney's water supply options
- We advised government desal was the least preferred option – but still the government ignored us
- Buried the report
- Expert Water Panel report then only released last month in papers about the desal decision

Environmental impact

- It's bad, it's an extra 200,000 cars on the road in increased greenhouse gases
- Lemma announced on 29 November \$24million new spending on climate change
- Yet, \$100m to offset the greenhouse gases from the desal plant
 - Unclear if the proposed strategies to offset greenhouse are feasible

CUA Newspann survey on water reuse

- July 2005 - 71% of Sydney-siders prepared to use quality treated water in their homes now!
- 67% - acceptable to use treated water from sewage plants to supplement our future water needs

Sydneysiders have reduced water use

- Water restrictions saved as much water as the desalination plant will produce
- Now the Premier is saying we can use all we want
- That's not water reform

Public consultation and trust

- Government believes it's market research that reports the people of Sydney are concerned about water,
- yet does not explain the full financial and environmental cost we will have to pay
- there is no public trust, and this shows
- Recently another survey showed 51% of Sydneysiders thought lemma is doing a poor job on water

This is not a taste test, as Sydney Water is trying to make us believe

- Desal is expensive
- Costly for rate payers
- Environmentally irresponsible

What will we have to pay?

- \$1.3 billion
- + greenhouse gas offsets, + land purchase, ++++
- Will we also have to pay the \$30m reported to compensate the operators of the Prospect water treatment plant who have a contract as the sole deliverer of water into the system?

What is the cost?

- We are already paying \$94m for the pre-building costs of the desalination plant in our water bills.
- We will have to pay for the building and operation of the desalination plant for the next 20 years,
- Whether it rains or not!

Sydney Water dividend to Treasury

- This is our money
- We want it reinvested in water infrastructure

Sartor's independent panel that will make the decision about the desalination plant

- The Government did not listen to its own independent Expert Water Panel
- hood winking the public again with this new panel
- Convenient decision making at the expense of the community

We have enough water in Sydney if we just use it in the right way

- Government –treating the citizens of Sydney badly

- We have lost trust in the Government to make the right decisions about our water needs

Sydney Community United against Desalination, SCUD

- Launched this morning
- Already more than 7 out of 10 Sydney residents are SAYING NO TO DESAL
- Nearly 8/10 Sydney residents are concerned about the environmental impact from increased greenhouse gas emissions
- 65% are concerned about the impact on the price of water
- If you feel angry about the Government ignoring you, register your concern on the SCUD web site www.stopdesal.org.au
- SAY NO TO DESAL