

Submission for " Land Biodiversity – White Paper "

My major concern is **Water Water Water Water Water Water Water** Water Water ????

Any future plan for growth and development should be based on the availability of water.

We were told in April that Adelaide had only 40 days of water left and the State opposition leader in Victoria predicted that we had only 60 days of water left. This must be a serious warning to all concerned. Global warming will increasingly dry our rivers and empty our dams in the coming month and years. Dr. Tim Flannery, in his book " The Weather Maker " states, " The cause of the decline of rainfall on Australia's east coast is thought to be a climate-change double whammy – the loss of winter rainfall and the prolongation of El-Nino like conditions ". As a result, we should urgently switch into survival mode rather than foster growth mode. Country towns like Euroa, which have already run out of water , would surely not support plans for more infrastructure and for more people to share their precious water.

I am afraid that the push for channel-deepening, the Hasting monstrous proposal, the proposed boat harbour in Frankston and a subsequent and planned population increase is poles apart from the plans for a sustainable and water-safe future.

In addition, there is, in the very near future, the peak-oil situation where oil industries regard themselves in the " sunset industry ".

If we ignore the above issues when making future plans we will not last for very long on this planet. We urgently have to channel all our efforts and finances into securing our water supply such as piping water from the north-west of Australia where it is predicted that rainfall will increase, in order to supply the southern and eastern coastal cities with a sustainable supply of water. Money spent on di-salination projects, and the use of wind and solar power need also urgent attention.

So lets get real and consider seriously our desperate water situation before we make unrealistic plans for our future.