



124 Boundary Rd.,
North Epping,
N S W. 2121.

2nd October 2003.

The Secretary,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee.

Dear Sir,

I note with considerable interest the call for greater Federal leadership regarding the future of Australia's water supplies, made at last month's COAG meeting as outlined in an article in the House of Representatives Magazine, "About the House".

I would contend that the issue of future water supplies for Australia is so vital, so important that an independent Authority, similar to the Snowy Mountains Authority, must be established at Federal level with overall control over Australia's water supplies, including all river systems and underground supplies. This, while it would consult with the States, would transcend all selfish State and individual interests.

In line with this I have written to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition several times, pointing out how well the Snowy Mountains Authority worked over many years in achieving maximum storage and transfer of water in the Snowy Mountains region. It worked so well because Hudson, the man in charge, had the authority and resources necessary for the task.

COAG and the Murray Darling Commission, while gaining a good understanding of the total problem, have no "teeth" to get things that must be done, under way because each member of these organisations has his particular State's interests to consider. There is nobody with overall control.

There are alarming Scientific reports that atmospheric pollution and changes in air currents caused by global warming is preventing water vapour in cloud formations from forming necessary droplets of water, and causing seasonal rainfall to move off-land over much of southern Australia, thus leaving southern Australia in a state of persistent semi-drought.

With the major part of our population living in south and south-eastern Australia, where are future water supplies to come from if insufficient rain falls? Governments are talking about taking water from farmers to provide more water for cities--a very stupid solution.

The solution must lie in utilising the water made available by monsoon activity over the north of Australia which provides about 80% of ground water in Australia. Sir Sidney Kidman suggested this solution to regenerate the dry inland some 80 years ago. Now is the time to apply Kidman's solution not only to divert water to the inland but to store

it in the vast complex of interconnected natural cisterns that make up the Great Artesian Basin stretching across four of Australia's eastern States. This would provide an ever renewable reserve of water for redistribution as long as the monsoon seasons continue. It would enable natural river flow to again be possible and so regenerate the river systems.

The independent WA politician, Mr Ernie Bridge, has already, through his "Watering Australia Foundation" done considerable work on the use of monsoon water, even to put some to practical use. He now considers that the monsoon floods, which make the Fitzroy River in the Kimberlies as much as thirteen miles wide in flood time, should be milked off for transfer, storage and use in western Australia.

Mr Bridge's ideas and advise must be part of the task of saving Australia.

Please accept my letter as a submission to your public hearings.

Yours Sincerely,



Jack Pearson.