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Submission to the Legislative Assembly's Natural Resource Management (Climate Change), NSW  
Parliamentary inquiry into the impact of climate change.

Unless we the people of Australia & our governments at both State & Federal levels & on both sides of Parliament & including all businesses, particularly big industry activities, ensures a genuine & sincere environmentally sensitive respect & conscience regard for literally all elements & all natural resources which are finitely limited within the strict arid limits of our predominantly hot, dry unpredictable climatic constraints, life as we know it now, may cease to exist, especially if we fail to change our national water mindset.

By far the biggest most fundamental flaw in our country today & in our way of life, even as we all reluctantly just begin to see only the tip of the iceberg of the alarming effects of climate change is undoubtedly, our overly untenable dependence & unsustainable commercial expectations on all our precious water resources simply to make money for ourselves. Put simply, unfortunately in Australia & more than likely including many parts of the rest of the world too, but certainly in this country that we live in, we simply do not have nearly sufficient reliable rainfall nor near enough existing natural water resources, either in our fragile river systems or in our ancient groundwater reservoirs to be able to expect to continue to merely use up our inimitable water resources simply to boost our economy. In other words, we cannot have our money water cake & drink it too.

Available water is absolutely necessary to sustain all life on earth. It is therefore our most priceless natural resource & in my view certainly water should not be regarded as a mere tradeable commodity. We can't drink money to stay alive & what water we've got, may be all we get. Many industries like flood irrigation, coal & natural gas production & a lot of manufacturing processes use up vast inexcusable quantities of our water, simply to make huge financial profits. Unfortunately, we are all to blame because our general water hungry industrialized lifestyles are so heavily water dependant. So we will all need to change our ways & not one of us is going to like having to change, but unless we change dramatically, we are likely to run completely out of water. Virtually all water uses for any activity whatsoever, that uses water, immediately needs to be fully accounted for. Those water hungry industries & other water depleting commercial practices & in fact all our lifestyles will therefore need to be considered & duly restricted regrettably, in order to truly restrain the amount of water currently being lost largely to our industrialized economy.

Change is never easy, however from now on, there seems little if no choice about the dramatic far reaching impacts of climate change. And so if we are truly sincere about wanting to genuinely try to respond to climate changes, surely the most important thing we can & all need to do, is to actively save all our existing precious water resources from further losses to our own commercial demand. We urgently need to make these sorts of intelligent responsible legislative changes to water governance, which clearly reflects our courageous human determination to protect all our water resources from ourselves. Nature needs an available water supply as well. Whatever we do, we need to only use up enough water that is sustainable & is completely in balance with our vulnerable environment. Our future depends not only on what water we use up, but more on what water we are prepared to sacrifice & leave behind for all our children & for our own future needs.  
Yours sincerely,

Wendy Bunce

