

**Submission
No 54**

**INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN
NSW**

Name: Mrs Joan Annette Douglas

Date received: 3/08/2012

SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW.

ADDRESSED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT.

It has long been known that Australia is by nature an extremely dry continent. We do have great river systems and the water storages and weirs which were built from 1928 to the 1950's and then Dartmouth in the 1970's, have been, extremely efficient and have helped us survive droughts and much lower rain falls over the years, but now, our population has probably tripled and there has been such a push for "environmental" water, that our storages are just not big enough. Dartmouth Dam was built wholly and solely for irrigation, stock and human use for NSW, Victoria and SA. I do not think there it was built to flow environmental water from it down through our river system.

It is absolutely ironical, that after a ten years drought while watching every drop of water we used, now the water in the storages are just allowed to flow through to make enough air space in case another big rain event is on the way.

This is the exact scenario, where we need to build more dams, to now capture the overflow of water just running straight through the system. In this case, another dam could be built lower than Mulwala, which would then assure without question that if a dam was built at Wellington, Adelaide would be more assured of its water supply.

Water could also be re-diverted from the Northern Rivers systems and directed into the Lachlan and Darling systems and this would practically drought proof Australia.

The re-direction of water from the Northern Rivers would only need to be released when the wet seasons are drenching the coastal systems and this would not be an automatic flow, but would be released with the threats of flooding to the Northern Rivers regions and take the pressure off the towns of Lismore and Grafton. Every time there is a flood in these areas, the absorbent costs to local councils in infrastructure replacement of roads, bridges, railways and levee banks, is astronomical. By re-diverting this water at that time, may help avert more massive cost to Councils and the NSW Government.

It is very evident that we must have more water storages and also making this twofold by the production of Hydro Electricity, a very clean and efficient energy source.

We have had the experience of a very severe drought only two years ago and now are experiencing flooding throughout NSW and Victoria.

Over these last few years, the experience that has come from both of these events, we should have taken that with both hands and made some very definite decisions towards building more water storages, because we have no idea what is around the next corner.

With the combination of the northern Rivers system and the rain events in the mountains over Burrunjuk, Dartmouth and Hume Dams, we should be making every drop of water captured, accounted for.

This means more engineering feats and water storages to be strategically placed in the right places and NSW would not ever have to worry about the lack of water again.

All problems may be solved with the MDB and it would give regions and communities the confidence needed to grow and take that forward step.

It would also be a huge confidence builder for real estate in regional and smaller towns.

We need infrastructure in the form of dams, hydro- electricity, which would create so many jobs and with the agricultural industry becoming so efficient in what they do, we would be assured of feeding ourselves and the world, without any threat of shortages of food or water.

The time has never been more evident for a move to get Australia moving in the right direction with strength and conviction.

We need strong leaders taking us to then next level and for them to strive and be definite in their decision making.

The Australian people need projects with substance to enhance our future and to be at the forefront in agriculture, mining, fishing and forestry and all industries to secure our nation.

It is the Governments responsibility to provide water and power for their citizens.

There will certainly be some big hurdles such as finance and of course the Green's will always protest but these people stand in everyone's way at every turn, but they are a minority group and Governments must rule for the majority.

In my opinion, the money which is being poured into National Parks throughout NSW, should be re-directed into making our water storages bigger and more efficient and allowing us to hold more water, so there is never the worry that has been previously, about not having the water to do what we need to do and not being held to ransom by the Green agenda.

Through taking this initiative in NSW, the whole nation will benefit and other States will probably follow on.

This certainly would go a long way in making" NSW Number One again".

So LET'S DO IT.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Yours faithfully,

Joan Douglas.

Deniliquin NSW 2710

3rd August, 2012.