

**Submission  
No 71**

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

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**Date received:** 3/08/2012

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**State Development - Submission-Inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW**

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**To:** <statedevelopment@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 8/3/2012 3:10 PM  
**Subject:** Submission-Inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW

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3rd August, 2012

To: Standing Committee on State Development.  
Submission To the Inquiry Into Adequacy Of Water Storages  
In N.S.W.

There should be a water storage built on the upper reaches of every river and major creek in N.S.W. (and Australia). Dams built on the correct site will allow inflowing tributaries below the dam to flush the lower river system. These would provide huge volumes of water for irrigation, hydro electricity, provide flood mitigation and environmental flows, particularly in dry times. Locally, a dam built on the Macintyre River at The Brothers, an area upstream of Inverell, would provide all of the above and a pipeline from this dam could be gravity fed into Copeton Dam when required. This dam on the Macintyre would have approximately halved the size of the 1991 flood, which swept through Inverell causing millions of dollars' damage. Similarly, a dam on the Upper Horton River site would benefit Moree. Coastal water storages above their requirements, could be diverted inland, benefiting the Murray Darling system.

Environmental flows need to be better managed, as recently water was released from Copeton Dam into an already flooded Moree water course (wetlands area), causing flooding of crops resulting in damage running into millions of dollars. This water is therefore being wasted as well as causing unnecessary destruction.

Contrary to popular opinion, there is not a shortage of water in Australia, it is just badly managed or should I say, not managed at all. There are huge volumes of water in the north of Australia which could be diverted inland, particularly down the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) system providing much more water for irrigation, thus making the communities along this system prosperous and the area truly the food bowl of the world. According to the MDB Authority, presently only 2% of agricultural land in the MDB is irrigated so there is vast potential for this to be increased.

These works should be done in the national interest just as our railways and major highways were built around 100 years ago.

One only has to look at Israel with their innovative irrigation methods or Turkey with their dams tunnels and canals, for example Ataturk Dam and others on the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Also the U.S.A. has huge dams and canal systems such as Hoover Dam and the All American Canal, so much more could be done in this country. We need politicians to be forward - thinking not regressive, as it seems many of them do not envisage anything beyond the next election and there appears to be no long term major infrastructure planning to benefit the nation.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Mephram