

**Submission
No 52**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CONTINUED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
OF SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED**

Organisation:

Name: Mr B.J Sloan

Telephone:

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Theme:

Summary

From: "John Sloan"
To: <snowyhydro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
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The Select Committee.

1. Impacts on the short and long term financial position of the Government including revenue and recurrent costs.

This is probably the most important item of the debate. There must be some common failure in the financial policies of the three governments involved as they all want more finances. For this Australian icon to be considered an unwanted element of public ownership can only reflect the gross mismanagement by those authorities. To be lauded as the greatest triumph of Australian development on both a technical and financial level, and overnight become a burden on government is an indictment of government financial management.

In all essence this has little to do with financial considerations or it would have been an issue long before this, and the public would have been involved as soon as any real concerns were brought to the public attention, not dumped on them overnight.

The real issue here is the ongoing requirement to implement the policies necessary to ensure the institution of AGENDA 21 becomes a reality. The Australian people have had to come to terms with the Federal decision to make our life blood, our water, a tradeable commodity on the National and international markets. This, in association with the implied admission our governments suddenly don't have the expertise to manage our water resources, handing that task to international corporations begs the question : " just what is the government good at managing?". Perhaps that query is already answered by the fact the IMF is auditing our books and "suggesting" how we should improve our financial management.

This attempt to sell off our most significant water resource is the next move to ensure our water is controlled by the U.N. and associated organisations.

The future infrastructure costs will not be carried by any new administrator as all costings will be manipulated back onto the public purse as was evident in the South Australian fiasco some years ago.

This form of privatisation is an exercise in smoke and mirrors policy. The end result will be the international corporation will have little expenditure for infrastructure and will take huge profits out of our country as long as the business remains profitable, while the public still carry the costs.

There is a very real danger we will become another Bolivia if we continue down this path. Under the U.N., W/B., I.M.F. and water baron policies and control, the Bolivian people were being extorted to the extent of paying half their monthly earnings just for water. It took a national rebellion to rectify that situation and we do not want to go down that path.

It is time the governments involved stopped their acquiescence to these international agendas and returned to the task of protecting this country and it's people from such agendas.

2. Future capital expenditure requirement of Snowy Hydro Ltd in order to remain competitive in the national energy market.

Another smoke and mirrors statement. Had we not complied with the requirements of the UN, WB and IMF and privatised our public utilities there would be no competitive market. The Australian people would have retained the ownership and management of these utilities.

3. Control of water regulation.

The governments have already acknowledged they are incompetent as water regulators in that they have given that management to the private water industry/international water barons.

4. Access to lands controlled by Snowy Hydro Ltd.

Let us be honest with this issue. The American people have been subjected to serious and significant onslaught that has confined their access to significant public land areas, which has also forced them to move from their properties and move to other residential areas. This issue is fraught with great dangers and in complying to AGENDA 21 requirements we could well suffer similar restrictive conditions.

5. Removal of disused Hydro infrastructure from National Parks.

It would seem from the public response to the sale that should this become a major issue it would be an acceptable expenditure rather than have the scheme privatised. As implied above the public would pay for any such requirement anyway through manipulation of the conditions of sale etc.

6. Heritage issues

The only heritage issue here is that under the UN one world government there will be no heritage for any future generation.

7. Other related matters

There are a multitude of other related matters, all of which should concern the Australian public and their elected representatives, and not some foreign corporation. It is now an apparent fact that our governments believe they have assumed sovereignty over the people. It is also apparent that foreign interests have usurped this perceived sovereignty. When sufficient numbers of Australians become aware of the deception successive governments have imposed on the people in regard to their rights and freedoms the repercussions will be significant.

The NSW Premier displayed his true colours after public opinion strongly rejected the sale. His obvious displeasure that he would not have the funds from the sale at his disposal again reflect the financial mismanagement of our governments. In the interests of the Australian people it must be time our governments stopped dancing to the foreign tune and showed the public they were intent on such governance as would reduce government expenditure on infrastructure, to benefit the expansion of foreign corporate plunder, and actually ask their electors how they would want their money to be spent. Perhaps there could be a return to an Australian bank that could issue Australian money, charge a minimal interest rate that would cover administration costs and prevent the people being encumbered with foreign debt. This was extremely successful in the early 1900's until foreign banks became established in this country.

This attempted sale of our last major public utility is only the tip of the iceberg and this select committee should be very aware of the ramifications of such a squandering of icons paid for, and maintained by the people. There are significant constitutional implications in the selling off of public utilities in that, as the public has paid for them and they belong to the people, it would seem appropriate that there should be referendums in respect of any disposal of same.

Lastly, but not the least of concerns, is this practice of suppressing information concerning these important submissions. On such important inquiries as the republic agenda and this one, it is blatantly obvious there is insufficient public knowledge of the inquiry. The most recent federal government inquiry on the republic issue did not comply with the terms of reference and only garnered about 700 submissions from the total population of this country. The fact there has been little media coverage on this issue, and such a truncated timeline for submissions to be made, does not convey the impression the public will have any significant input into this debate. There will, however be a statement to the effect that there was public participation and submissions tendered. Shades of the Delphi principle of public participation.

Sincerely

John Sloan