

**Submission  
No 79**

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

**Name:** Mr Sampathawaduge Wimal Hemraj Sethsiri Fernando  
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SWHS Fernando

15 August 2012

The Director  
Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Fax: 9230 2981

Dear Committee Members

**Re. Adequacy of water storages in NSW (Inquiry)**

As a concerned Citizen of NSW I have decided to provide some information for your consideration:

- ◆ From 1995 to 2003 I have worked for the Goulburn City Council (GCC). When I was joined that Council I have realised that almost every 10<sup>th</sup> year Goulburn has to imposed water restriction for the Goulburn residents. However at that time GCC thought and planned that they may able to get extra water from the Welcome Reef Dam once it constructed, to improve the water situation in Goulburn. But when the Premier at that time announced that he has decided to suspend that project, I was disheartened. Even I requested Director, Engineering Services at GCC to protest about that premier's decision but

unfortunately he refused to do it. Then Goulburn experienced a severe drought from 2004. As a result of that GCC had to construct a pipe line from Wingecarribee Dam to Goulburn at cost of \$50 million. Further GCC and NSW Government spent more money for Ground Water investigation and effluent Irrigation. People (like Greenies) may think construction of Dams may have some environmental impacts but the construction desalination plants have more environmental impacts than Dams. I don't know why Greenies are supporting Desalination Plants than Dams.

As a result of suspending Welcome Reef dam, Goulburn cannot develop as planned. Many people left Goulburn.

### **Some Facts**

1. Construction costs of Dams are almost 50% less than the construction of Desalination Plants.
2. Operating cost of dams are less than 20% cost of operating Desalination Plants
3. Dams have 400% life more than the desalination Plants
4. Unlike Desalination Plants Dams never produce any Green House Gases
5. Dams give us recreations such as Inland fishing, family picnic areas, water for irrigation, water for domestic use, less treatment cost and energy cost.
6. Desalination Plants produce salty waste and life of membranes are few years and replacement cost is very high.

Yours sincerely

SWHS Fernando