

**Submission
No 9**

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

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- TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This topic, over many years has been of great concern to me, unfortunately my correspondence, conversations with Politicians, and other endeavors have been noted, however no change in water policy has eventuated.

I have spent 28 years located in Dubbo, as a livestock buyer (cattle, sheep, lambs and pigs) traveling throughout Western and Northern NEW and into Southern Queensland to purchase livestock for Thomas Playfair and British Tobacco. These endeavors resulted in my flying over vast areas Dubbo to Cunnamulla, Dubbo to Bourke and Dubbo to Moree Seen first hand the vastness of this land and lack of development caused by inadequate water collection and conservation. My focus in this presentation is to high-light how important water collection can be to the education, and advanced learning skills to children in remote areas.

Example Walgett. N.S.W large population of indigenous families, difficult to maintain schooling 8.30 am to 3.30 pm for these children.

Program support.

Create cultivated area on flat land within the grounds of Walgett School.

Teachers to pursue the following practical endeavors.

- 1 land preparation. properly surveyed
- 2 obtain water from Namoi river and Barwon river to school site (including cost).
- 3 explain costs of implimentation of drip-fed water scheme including piping
- 4 explain efficient use of water application, not during the hottest part of the day
- 5 discuss plant varieties (food) would be suitable for this soil component and why.
- 6 select appropriate seeds, greater variety the better. Costs of seeds, relate cost as to amounts planted
- 7 cost of fertilizer, application rates will differ as to plant selection
- 8 cost of labor, i.e. the students time spent working, relative to the establishment of final cost of product before setting price, high light attention to detail introduce selling program either on site in school grounds or street stall in Walgett
- 9 explain to students the pit falls in growing food plants i.e. insects, frost, wind and excessive rain.

Water being the operative ingredient, the students will be well informed of how precious this commodity is to the wellfair of people's well being and good health.

The greatest problem facing outback children is boredom. They feel isolated and struggle to find a purpose of endeavor which allows them enjoyment and fulfillment.

This program could be introduced to similar schools in Bourke, Broken Hill, Nyngan, Moree, Gwoondiwindi, Boggabilla to name a few.

As stated the main ingredient is water.

Many documentaries on out-back mission areas high light the dry red dust, run down facility causing untold social problems, the proper use of 'water' will certainly help this unfortunate set of circumstances.

May I point out there has not been a dam built in N.S.W for the last 40 years or an endeavor to divert rain falling on the Great Dividing Range to flow west instead of east and ultimately into the sea.

Recently it was reported that 6% of Australian land mass is 'arable', (what a disgrace).

Consider this scenario, our Norther neighbors South East Asia and China, hundreds of millions of people, one day a senior authority fly Darwin to Adelaide then Sydney to Perth and notices all this flat unoccupied land?

In closing I also owned 1,000 acres 10k East of Dubbo, grew wheat, linseed and lucerne. I then converted this property into a housing estate 39 .

25acre blocks fully serviced with town water, bitumen roads, electricity and fencing.

Won BHP Award of Excellence for estate living in a country city.

I look forward to your response and I would be honored to be part of a Committee to inquire into the future of water in rural and regional N.S.W.

Sincerley

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