

**Submission  
No 79**

## **INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION**

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## **SUBMISSION ON WATER IN NSW AUGUST 2016**

**Noeline Franklin Brindabella:- a gloves off look at water.**

I apologise in advance for this submission thrown together with short notice of this enquiry in progress.

### **Main points**

*The Murray Darling Reform process conducted by Craig Knowles excluding the catchment assessment of the high country water intake declared "protected" when in fact it was neglected before and after the horror man made alpine inferno Canberra to Melbourne 2002-9. The cobbled together in house assessment of high country yields by those that have run a very long and insular 'no cool fire designer dingo no graze' campaign building the bonfire to maximal height and width for general government consumption in 2010-1 has been more of the same non transparent non accountable look at a national and public asset. The drought summer 'hazard reduction' horror holocausts have begun a very serious train of events spiral downwards for water and what limited biodiversity is left. The soils depleted of nutrients burnt off. Manipulation of 'terms of reference' to avoid the truth coming out in a number of coronials and royal commissions has made a bad situation worse stoking the next step in mass extinction and water crisis.*

*Academia, cloned thought as it stands in the main, are not equipped to have an unbiased realistic view of the situation and depreciation. Australia **does not** have an apolitical approach to research funding. The general public has not had the benefit of all the available knowledge on water management from*

*-particulate pollution effects*

*-development of best practice vegetation management*

*-biodiversity security as a sidekick to entertain the masses*

*-long term implications of canopy killed forests*

*-rampant flammable monoculture regrowth*

*-food and water sustainability long term rural minorities have been locked out as if they are vermin. Our vested interests, unhealthy when it is in fact fundamental to agriculture delivering on renewable food fibre, land and water stewardship, biodiversity retention. It goes beyond lip service to Landcare & CMAs the LLS restructure imposing their will no matter what. Farmers forced to feed dingo not people the 1.1+M hungry children in Australia and the 1.1+M adults their parents and grand parents. The garbled messages to rural communities is not good enough.*

*If this government is genuinely serious about water where it comes from, how it managed, where it goes to, the success stories being belligerently ignored and deconstructed to protect the flaws in the blind beliefs. The tattered affairs of the high country need be publically scrutinised as a matter of urgency. This is where the water is generated and recycled. Those assuming control have not been accountable to the public and particularly down stream water users facing avoidable destitution no fault of their own. I am willing to address the committee with the view to refining a way forward in this matter.*

Our family and community survived by luck and coincidence the alpine fires Canberra inferno 2003 in particular. These fires should never have been allowed to happen or be as severe as what was allowed to occur after decades of neglect negligence and stupidity in foreign dogma failing in their countries of origin to deliver water security or conservation value. These fires were the first of a now very rapidly deteriorating process of spiral down for the alps, water, biodiversity ski industry, hydro electricity the list goes on. Food security is something our family is very aware of as we survived the famine of early industrial Britain shipped to Australia to survive more of the same.

We have come to the Snowy in the early 1830s and have as a family taken pride in being part of the security of food, water, looking after wildlife, wildflowers and ecology native and farmed. As our people took seriously the rabbit plague, two world wars among other distractions from farming we are disgusted to be mild at what has been allowed to happen to the mountains, the inland, the coast of SE Australia. How our governments have been involved in bad advice for so long. Building bonfires across the alps to one drought summer incinerate from Sydney to Hobart. Where did the water go?

We have had Coronials, Royal Commissions and 3000GI of water ripped out of the MDB water budget because farmers were accused of "*stealing water*" "agriculture uses 93% of the nations water supply" in all this sort of misleading information when product feeds 20+M people domestically and earns renewable export income, as tourism, manufactured fruit in a tin, what ever as laundered primary industry to play down the efforts and achievements of 140000 farm families plus the ones off in town subsidising agriculture the tax office does not recognise as farmers because they are off in town earning money to pay the rates, drought feed, working to busting point for many families, less services support and empathy in return as years go by. Families wonder why they are working themselves into poverty and ill health paying more levies, taxes, rates to be resented for water to do the food production with. The land and soil to do the work with.

Back to the Snowy. Post inferno which we were pleading with government for decades not to have happen but the academic experts were the only ones allowed into advise the Minister more money for their junkets to build the bonfire ever higher ever wider and tell the media and the public the school and university students we were the red neck antienvironment exploitationists maliciously destroying a good wilderness. Grazing sheep producing wool before their time was done then meat and meantime flocks suppressing flammable weeds so the creeks could flow, the wildflowers saw the sunshine. The horses ridden around the hills so no roads etc. were needed. The cattle would help the wallaby and kangaroo keep the gullies green and fire safe haven for the tree ferns and so on. No one has bothered to collect generational multicultural land management knowledge before change of management to doing nothing. Political collateral has been gained by confiscating the results and painting those that have worked largely on a voluntary basis as black as possible to justify dispossession from crown land. Soft title fair game for a take over and no right of reply for false accusations of exploitation. Paid for grass, logs and spent a lot of time contributing 'in kind' the fire risk management, pest species suppression and removal.

We did such a good job the blow in bushwalking set decided it all needed "saving" as the rhetoric goes. No burn no graze and the packs of designer dogs could be encouraged to butcher the grazers sheep, the calves, foals wallaby, wombat etc. butchered worse than the greyhound industry worst case scenario could contemplate and the smoke free tourist destination city water catchment was born.

More land was required each state election for several decades as political figures in seaside Sydney bought city votes with crown leases each election for the vision of some one high on oxygen or some other substance there in the Blue Mountains. Water for the city could be produced off piles of rotting gum leaves decades of fallen timber jam packed dense scrub actively fire suppressed with layers of gadgetry and this was declared 'natural wilderness' and salvation. This despot grew for years across the road map including all the alps Blue Mountains

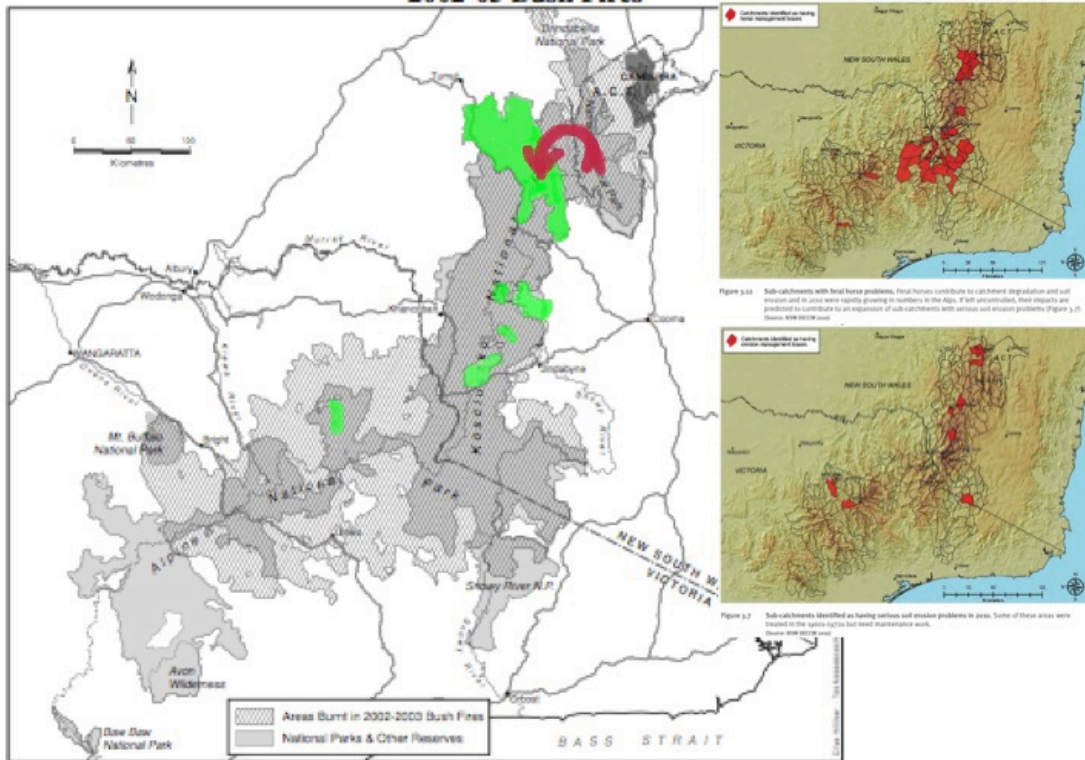
to Melbourne then Blue Mountains to Cook Town is the vision. 1000s of kilometres long 100s wide butchered by the same policy failure that burnt Canberra, 173 Victorians, many millions of trees birds lizards alpine bogs the shebang. Climate change they wail unconvincingly to those that saw the 'management' change that as led to the dead forest, vast reduction in rain snow water recycling. What were the remnant fire safe havens for water, biodiversity, bogs were those few remaining areas grazed green fire safe by Brumby, travelling cattle or remnant grazing leases managed by local communities.

In 2003 these are the green areas (map below) and left Canberra with an alternate water source having cooked the Cotter basin so expertly with almost 100 years of rocket fuel. Burnt the soil the trees vaporised wildlife that survived the tyranny of decades of bonfire building starving and going to the packs of dogs enforcing no graze policies. In the ACT Brumby vilified and shot in 1987, wildlife gone to the dogs from about 1974. No cool fire no grazing from anything, bogs never before burnt even in the 1939 heat wave fires, in 2003 cooked and undercut peat deposits of 3200+ years old. Fried the frogs, canopy burnt the forests shocked into rampant dysfunctional regeneration with little or no control over transpiration. Mark Adams professor University of Sydney who has been subjected to disgusting treatment to frustrate his research has verified the transpiration story which supports bushmen's observations.

Scientists who have also been seen a threat to science fiction have been put on the redundancy scrap heap for their work globally on the interference locally of particulate pollution and rainfall, lightening characteristics cloud seeding medication and so on. Australia once led the world in understanding rain formation and it appears they were seen as some concern for the plans of others. We as farming community are compelled to pay rates taxes research levies in good faith are we getting a fair and even handed access to unbiased science?? Or is it being hijacked into the antichrist bin? Without doubt peer reviewed science in Australia is being toggled. Australian agriculture pays \$600M-\$800M annually in research levies then contribute again in the public top up via taxes, GST, fuel, income if you have to sell your livestock reserves in a drought denied grazing leases, travelling stock route access, irrigated fodder.

A university wants to tinker around with the biodiversity before they burn it or it smothers in rank vegetation denied grazing or cool fire. The road users up the middle of the travelling stock routes have right of way and grazing apparently has nothing to do with water security, food security renewable export earning or biodiversity in particular. We out here in rural Australia apparently have not got the powers of reliable observation and reporting, our lives are all about mischievous self interest.

## Areas of the Australian Alps Burned During the Summer 2002-03 Bush Fires



The best estimates have been pre inferno on the alps MDB could be losing 16+ % of rainfall where the monsoon lows overcome local pollution effects in the flood years. Orographic rain is particularly sensitive to a minimum of stripping off 2500GJ runoff on the alps which reliably provides, or used to be 13100GJ yield off what is the 1.64M hectares run jointly by NSW Vic ACT and Federal Gov under the MOU 1986. Most years 30% of Murray inflow and dry years the lions share of inflow. More drought years dry out the MDB obviously the deeper the drought cycle drainage of ground water less irrigation flushing Canberra's toilet out of the lower lakes dolled up sugar coated as 'environmental flows.' 1-2% of the MDB 109M hectares provides the river water and 60+ % of rain stays where it falls to produce wheat barley timber sheep cattle.....shipped off to the seaboard because agriculture uses all Australia's water!

Canopy burn, regrowth, transpiration, interception on the Snowy could cut this 2500GJ pollution loss back an additional 3000+GJ run off. About the same as Craig Knowles MDB reform process closing down towns vilifying destitute farmers for turning 300ha irrigation farms to dryland destitution blocks. Back to the rabbit plague days. Send the water to Canberra or the water now that no longer eventuates off canopy burn. The experts still have their domestic water siphoned off irrigators to the tune of \$50+ billion dollars a year in lost income for NSW towns and state product. 40GJ upper Murrumbidgee water off the made fire safe Brumby runs worth \$640+M a year so ACT can get under the salt release waste water licence.

Unless a tropical monsoon reaches southern Australia away down the mine we go. Flood water used to flush toxic gum leaves off the flood plain and kill the fish in mysterious fish kills more effective than any commercial fishing programs in history at killing 100 year old cod. Blame farmers fishermen or the red gum saw millers. Salt or sun spots.



In his wisdom Craig Knowles excluded the headwaters assessment in the MDB reform process threatening to take 7000GL of water from irrigators not able to get crops pastures through on rain. 7000GL negotiating room double plus. As mentioned a more likely occurrence with particulates dust, smoldering pulp mills, coal fired electricity, smelters and open cut mines sucked up into rain cloud dissipating moisture and inhibiting rain until the cloud floats over the salty sea breeze self medicating to rain over Sydney Parliament and ends the drought as the water passes out through the Sydney heads to New Zealand. Does not do anything for the inland watching fuzzy cloud go over mute. More dust sucked up into the cloud and down the spiral we go and farmers accused of over clearing marginal land or some other helpful statement by the well fed with swimming pools sea side and tableland water pulled out of the over grown thing called wilderness water catchment and nursing the desal unit for when the catchment catches alight and blows into the stratosphere inexplicably powered by atom bombs worth of refuse carefully conserved by a dedicated network.

So there was Craig looking down stream and forgot where the water ran in. He gets the *farmers plumber award* of the new centaur. Come 2010-1 we have a wonderful document cobbled together subjectively assessing the "protected" alps catchments written by the very people who built the bonfire Canberra, Melbourne and for Adelaide as well. The farmers that maliciously ruin the wilderness by producing food in isolation of the supermarkets cafés export boats and aircraft that mysteriously generate food timber fish clothing on the shelves for the people that are highly educated and live in little boxes dreaming up ideas why farmers foresters fishermen rural minorities are too few to worry about in the political process because they cut down trees, pull water out of rivers and dams where the fish and ducks should live peaceful natural lives and so on.

I apologise for being flippant however our families are becoming very disenchanted with the process of government when the essentials for this nation



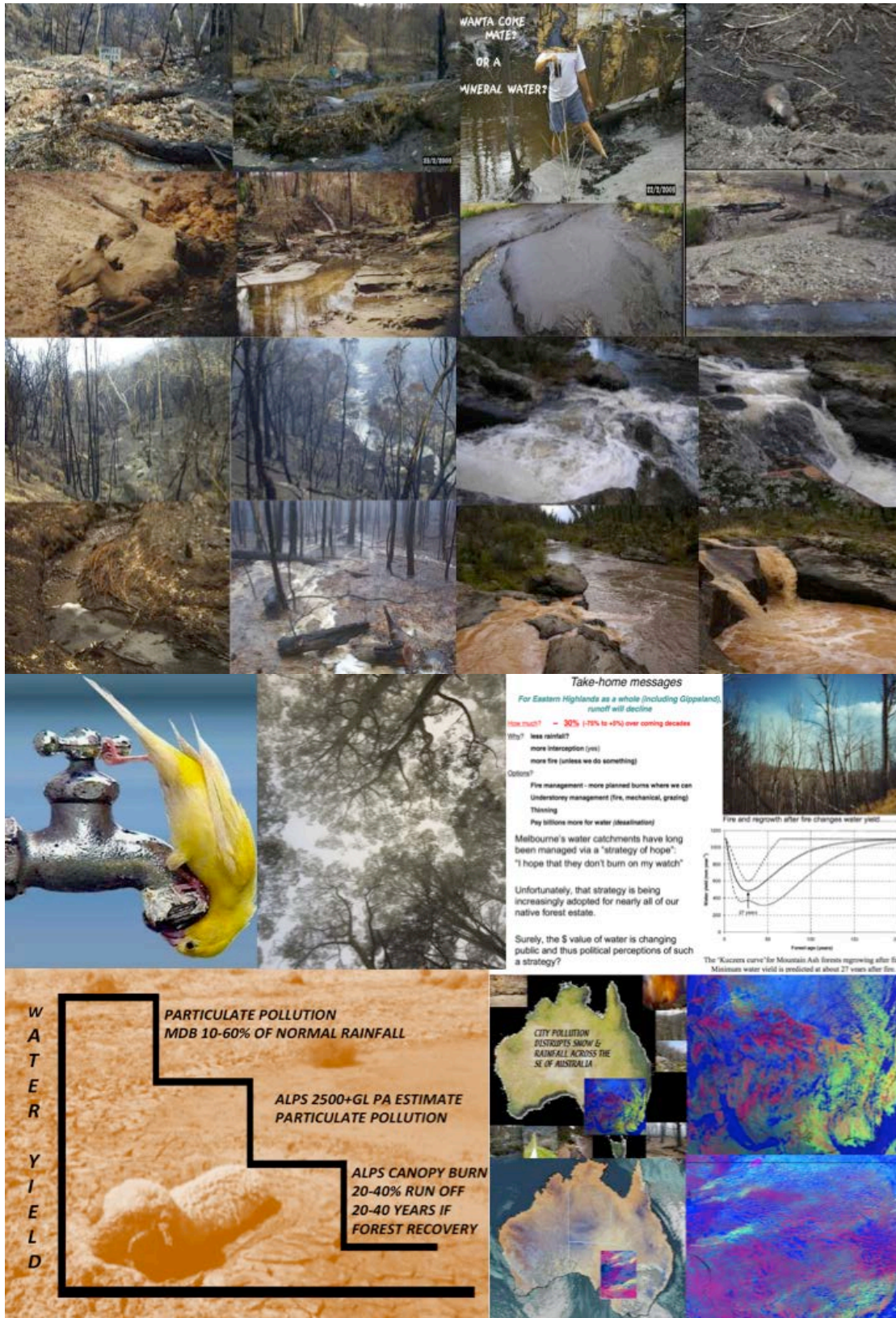
are being by passed for more expenditure on junkets for the few. I have been unfortunate to sit pool side five minutes from the beach with all the food known to man as the assembled drunks start being appallingly judgemental of rural minorities largely incapacity to represent a reality of what it takes to build their banquet. The beach retreat made from an old dairy farm, orchard, market garden and the farmers sent inland off the high rainfall zone to perish without irrigation or water now flowing off the alps because no one looked after what our families cherished and worked hard lives to look after, kept the water sweet clean the creeks lined with ferns the fish frogs abundant the sheep wallaby echidna cohabiting among the stately gum trees wildflowers as far as the eye could see.

What happened? The blow in experts found out what we were doing and took away how we were doing it! It was **assumed** traditional cool fire and migratory big animal grazing were "*degrading processes*" so we installed layers and layers of industrial gadgetry in a destocked designer dingo infested locked up land building bonfires accumulated toxic waste leaching into the creeks and bogs killing frogs fish. Starving wildflowers grasses insects lizards frogs fish birds mammals disappear as does the water. Maximal ground and aerial fuel piled ever higher ever wider waiting for the inevitable drought summer.



For decades Soil Con experts built the bonfire, destocked fire suppressed dingo infested. No one could reason with them 'rainforest *would not return* with do nothing mismanagement of man made wilderness. An ecological artefact of anything that has come before it in millions of years. Soil Con staffers had more opinions than credentials to judge. Government has placed blind faith in their bad advice. Warnings ignored for decades. The consequences have manifested yet the graduated clerks have manipulated terms of reference of public enquiries to avoid dealing with the origins of man made climate change via vast canopy burn being understood and avoided for the spiral down. Protecting too many players "*just doing their job*" adhering to bad legislation and ingrained preconceptions.





Particulate pollution from industrial processes woft across the SE disrupting rain/snow production, over grown abandoned forests dry out and inevitably burn hot and harder than nature would allow in grazed fire unsuppressed landscapes. Repeated 2+M hectare fires in dog country loses recovery capacity. Rampant regeneration of fire hardy species loses water to the atmosphere and the land. Water recycling becomes dysfunctional and inadequate. Here or N America the advanced experiment.



Scientists fearing they will lose their jobs and careers of their indoctrinated students frustrate the work of others that want to explore alternative approaches to deliver water, biodiversity, fire security to rural and urban communities are restructured from the system and research funding obstructed, credibility scorned entire divisions and units shut down because of unpalatable findings challenging blind belief.

The Snowy is being run by a protective insular and unaccountable clique, is a victim of nepotism, denying overwhelming evidence of chronic policy failure both here and overseas from where we have imported fanaticism that does not deliver. Over educated/indoctrinated and lack knowledge.



Before salvation ..after salvation and inevitable incineration cremation when the bonfire blew one drought summer which Australia has had for about the last 26M years but industrial gadgetry was **not** combined with dingo no graze to build the bonfire so expertly. Experts we now know can burn water off the alps.



***So, when you were chief executive of the New South Wales Department of Environment and Heritage, Sally Barnes , how did the critters go? Did things get better for them?"***

***Barnes says her answer is always the same, "I don't know. And I hate the fact that I don't know."***



***...."dozens of plants and animals being added to the endangered species list every decade, no one has any real idea of whether our traditional national parks services are part of the problem or part of the solution." , "*** Hugh Possingham professor of mathematics & biology, directs the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at the University of Queensland.

***Kakadu is armed with an annual budget of \$18 million. And \$50 million is spent each year in the Great Barrier Reef. Kakadu's native mammal fauna were in "rapid and severe decline". More than half of the Great Barrier Reef had disappeared over the past 27 years.***



<http://www.theglobalmail.org/feature/a-feral-cat-ate-my-bilbies/494/>

***Tim Flannery director of Australian Wildlife Conservancy (3M HA) observes "National parks are marsupial ghost towns"***

Australia's rural community are not the only ones raising concerns on conservation land management in regard to biodiversity. If biodiversities needs are met then water cycle is also in good shape. Soil health ground water recharge bog health stream regularity forests collecting fog drip and providing *Pseudomonas syringei* for snowflake production. Water recycling across SE Australia before moisture is lost to the Pacific ocean. High rainfall areas pulled out

of production of forest thinings or water hungry industries such as dairying, market gardening, orcharding. Farming rated out of existence for urban sprawl and lifestyle subdivisions in the choice high rainfall areas. Farmers sent inland and irrigation water resented for pasture production for example where dairy farmers and stock finishers have been dispossessed on the coastal fringe where urban expansion has been mindless. Livestock are being dispossessed of drought aid in high country leases and the roads are dictating terms on the travel routes. Agriculture could more easily follow the vagaries of rainfall distribution than today where grazing leases drought relief has been closed down for city water to burn, travelling stock routes closed down on the pretext of protecting biodiversity which is starving and burning or run over with vehicles or road widening. Denied big animal ecoservices.