

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 79a**

## **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. Second part of submission

Fisheries are being frustrated with dams, environmental flows flushing city waste water treatment short cuts down the rivers and blaming farmers for pollution and nutrient losses. The less water recharge in the alps because of what will become permanent soil degradation and vegetation dysfunction then the picture is of considerable concern.



Mount Buffalo Victoria the western side of the alps is considered by many observers as the "advanced experiment" parked in 1898, destocked in 1920s big fire in mature forest 1972, repeated unstoppable fire in dysfunctional regrowth that comes after hot fire in maximal bonfire, burnt in 1985, 2003, 2006. Species and soil is lost every hot fire. The rest of the southern alps has had their big fire 2002-9. The clock is on yet no one has looked to short circuit the fire spiral down to the man made cold desert.



America from where our experts derived their overseas study tours have seen the folly of locked up land for water catchment and so called nature conservation as the public face for destocking debilitating fire suppression with all the technology America could throw at it. They are now embarking on a forest restoration process, thinning the forest 9 trees in 10 logged "cost recovery conservation" moderate the savage killer guard animals of mt lion, bear, coyote, wolf, encouraged grazing bison elk deer caribou domestic animal recognised as repairers recycling nutrients enhancing soil health restoring wildflowers as is cool fire regimes in combination. Everything we had before experts took over from bushmen, built the bonfire, choked the streams burnt the bogs, soil forests repeatedly beyond recovery. So where did our Snowy water go?





## Caring for our Australian Alps Catchments



"A climate change action strategy for the Australian Alps to conserve the natural condition of the catchments and to help minimise threats to high quality water yields"

### Summary Report for Policy Makers

This Report was prepared for the Australian Government by:  
Graeme L. Worboys and Roger B. Good

The document is a "Summary For Policy Makers" of a 2011 Technical Report prepared for the Australian Alps Liaison Committee and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency titled:

"Caring for our Australian Alps Catchments: A Climate Change Action Strategy for the Australian Alps to conserve the natural condition of the catchments and to help minimise threats to high quality water yields"

The Summary Report is published by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency  
[www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)

**THE INHOUSE SELF ASSESSMENT DROPPED  
OFF 3000GL. HOW CONVENIENT!  
10% FOG DRIP, 40-100Y REGROWTH LOSSES  
1100MM=> 450MM VIC CLEARFELL MODEL**

Table 6.3 Annual average water volumes in gigalitres (GL) flowing from the Australian Alps protected area catchments sourced from the literature. (Note that different estimates have been provided by different sources with the source of average flow figures used by this report accounted for)

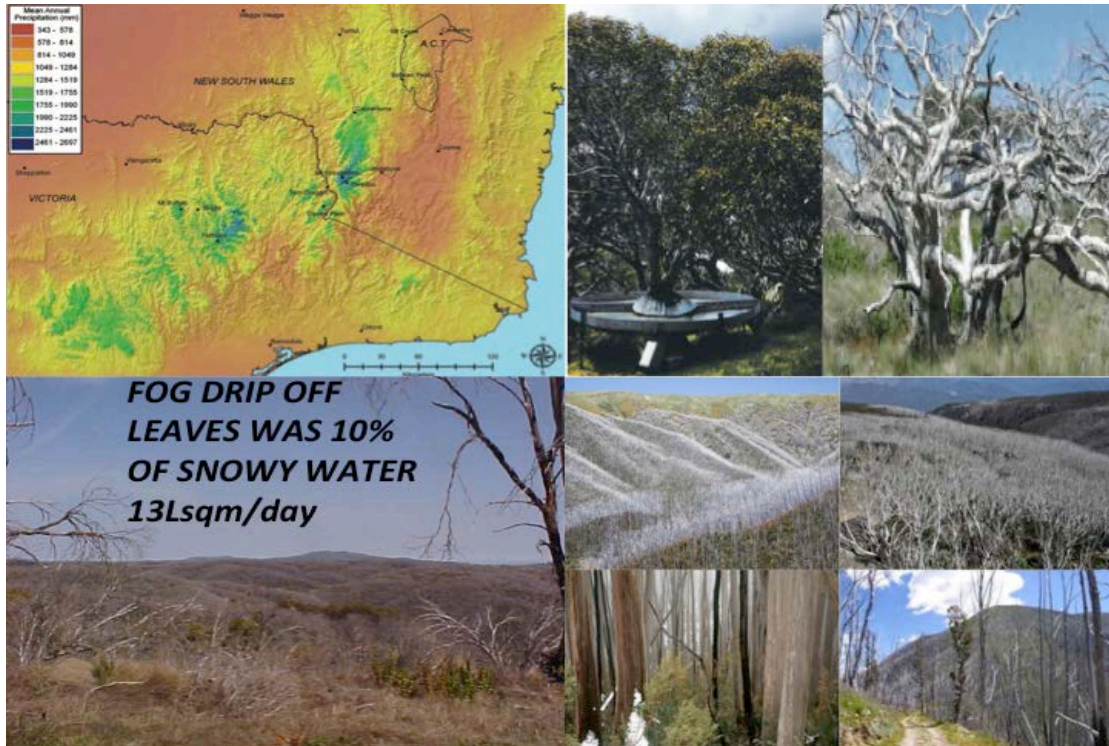
State/Territory catchments	Average annual volume of water (GL)	Reference
NSW/ACT	4500 GL from the Alps catchments, plus an average 1140 GL diverted from the Snowy River catchments to the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers	Brown and Milner 1989; DSIR 2000
NSW	Snowy Hydro is required to provide minimum releases of 2088 GL to the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers	Young, D 2004; SHL 2006
Victoria	3980 GL from the Alps catchments	SKM 2005; PV 2009c
Aggregated (from the above) average annual flows from the Australian Alps is about 9620GL		
Victoria and NSW	The long term average yield or flow for all of the Australian Alps is 13100GL	Brown and Milner 1989

Note: Based on the above information, the average annual water inflow to the MDB used for the purposes of the Technical Report was 9600GL.

Our greatest concerns are that the alps have been taken over by a restricted and comfortable scientific clique which has aggressively excluded other lines of thought and knowledge in assessment of public assets for which we are all paying for dearly as fire fighters as rural communities forced to muster escaping packs of wild dogs naturalised wilderness guard dogs and cheap pest inhumane controllers, groomed degrazers, the inferno capable of exterminating our farms and families each summer, all the values our families worked for, for generations, can be assigned to some mythical climate change event when nothing is being done to stem the chaos for future repeats and deterioration.

The inhouse assessment of the alps with the exclusion of the 'Craig Knowles Murray Darling Basin reform' from the process which should have been a very public transparent and robust assessment from the water intake to its use all through the basin, is yet another slight of hand by the reigning princes on the public purse. Above reproach or scrutiny. Entire communities are being held to ransom for political deals done since 1944 when Australia was at war trying to survive drought, rabbit plague, loss of work force, wool clips, horses confiscated for the war effort. Soil con swanned in with their 3 men committees and took the water not knowing what it took to secure it. The legacy of past management all but extinguished now for all time.

People gazing in bogs, then and since while the collection of vegetation incinerates by negligence.



If fog harvesters collect 13 litres of water per square metre of mesh then how many litres does a mature alpine ash tree/ forest collect? How much does that dead forest capture by comparison. Soil con staffers said fog drip was 10% of catchment yield. When it came to advice on fire asset protection water biodiversity fell off the agenda and people advised to rake up the leaves prune shrubs to 2 metres off the ground place flammable native trees and shrubs a distance from the building. More scrub for soil con was unsustainable management for water catchment not acknowledging fire risk and other factors. All ecoservices denied our once beautiful alps.

