

**Submission
No 102**

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Name: Ms Barb Webster

Date received: 29 January 2017

Inquiry into Water Augmentation, 2016 -2017

General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

NSW Parliament Legislative Council

Parliament House,

Macquarie st.

Sydney, 2000

Dear sir/madam,

I am Barbara Webster, long term resident of Broken Hill & Menindee. Thank you for the opportunity to add this to my earlier submission.

1a) Water equation.

Regarding the usefulness of a water equation, it is important to have as many variables as possible, distinctive tributaries specific, wet or dry river bed, projections of weather conditions for the 3 months or so it takes water to move down the Barwon-Darling system, whether the catchment is in drought or not. When the equation is deemed good, it still needs to be a guide only. Current and relevant decisions on the ground need to have some flexibility, not set in stone from the cities, as conditions & reasons change. Local people releasing water need flexibility to release or hold water much faster than previously experienced in Menindee.

1b) Water storages

Residual pools should not be included in the triggers for MBDA & NSW change of water releases from the Menindee Lake system. Silting in the lakes since changes in the way they were filled when the interconnecting channel was built has been explained as the cause of this. Graziers tend to desilt their dams when it's dry, (maintenance). Local 1st Australian men were among the original work crew who developed the MLS from the Menindee Lakes. Maybe the local Native Title Holders (Barkandji people) would agree to set up a training & permanent reclamation program, possibly using a branch of TAFE, resulting in certification for heavy licences, & jobs in Menindee & Broken Hill reservoirs, such as Umberumbeka. I'm suggesting these people as there are many cultural sites they would need to avoid, & I expect they would take good care not to dig too deep into the original lake bed as Lake Menindee is itself a culturally sensitive site. Obviously payment would have to cover this type of expertise. I expect the impactors would be the govt bodies concerned with developing the lakes in this way, hence would be the payers. If this could free up the residual pools, by giving them a drainage route to the Darling River, or the inlet, a lot of

water could be available for the Darling River upstream from weir 32, even if it could bring the residual pool close enough to the outlet to be siphoned out or pumped through.

1c) Adequacy of water storages

I think if a pipeline comes from the Murray, it should only be used to supplement Broken Hill if or when the Menindee lake system runs dry. It should go to Menindee from the Murray. It should be able to pump water both ways, if necessary.

1e) Technologies for infrastructure

Concrete can be set containing a type of bacteria that grows colonies when cracks form, & it fills the cracks with calcium carbonate ie: self repairing concrete. Might be a good idea to follow up for new pipes & dam structures. Could be usable on our ageing pipeline from Menindee to Broken Hill.

1i) Other matters.

a) Any new or refurbished regulators, weirs, lakes, should be constructed to avoid silting and cold water releases, possibly by releasing top warmer & bottom cold water together.

b) If the Wentworth to Broken Hill pipeline is built it must not be charged to the users. IPART can't seem to make a pricing decision until its already ½ built,(straight from Yes Minister) we won't be able to afford it. \$500,000,000 plus yearly interest on borrowed \$, plus depreciation, plus operating costs. Depreciation plus original cost seems to be double dipping to me, not that I'm counting.... \$100,000,000 plus interest plus operating costs, Between 9,614 dwellings & a few businesses.

c) Blue green algae apparently requires calm, hot, nutrient rich water, (and insufficient zooplankton to devour it), to bloom. Possibly a competition to design an economical, environmentally friendly water agitator for relatively smaller town reservoirs, weirs & lakes, either floating on or from the bank, may be a way of finding a solution for this problem. I say this as there seem to be a lot of skin & general health complaints when blue green algae is around, even though the water is supposedly adequately treated. This concept could also be used to entice schools & uni students to develop a contraption to assist oxygenation of relatively smaller water bodies, for activation when oxygenation is a problem.