



Welcome & Introduction

by

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Friends of Gulf St Vincent

<http://users.sa.chariot.net.au/~littoral/fogsv/>



Organising Committee

- ◆ Australian Civic Trust Inc
 - Darian Hiles
- ◆ Cheltenham Residents Association
 - Trevor White & Brian Cope
- ◆ Land Water Australia
 - Bob Giles
- ◆ Friends of Gulf St Vincent
 - John Caldecott (Convenor)
- ◆ Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association
 - Jim Douglas
- ◆ Save Our Gulf Coalition
 - Corrie Vanderhoek & Robert Lloyd
- ◆ Chris Field
- ◆ Friends of the Earth
 - Richard Smith



Supporting Organisations

Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Education Union (SA)
Australian Options Magazine
Australian Peace Committee (SA)
Build Adelaide – Build Eco
Conservation Council of SA
Fair Water Use (Australia)
Fair Share International
Finniss Catchment Group
Friends of the Earth - Adelaide

The Hawke Centre - University of SA
Gawler Environment and Heritage Association
Graham F. Smith Peace Trust Inc
Imprints Booksellers
Lower Lakes and Coorong Infrastructure
Committee
Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Association
River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group
SA Unions
SA Council of Social Services

Helping with Promotion of the Summit



Presenters

- ◆ Professor Simon Beecham
 - Water Supply Options for Adelaide - Why They Need to be Adaptive
- ◆ Dr Glen Walker
 - CSIRO Sustainability Yields Project – Water Supply Implications for SA
- ◆ Professor Don Bursill
 - Adelaide's Water Supply – Australia's most Reliable
- ◆ Richard Clark
 - Organisation Reform to Achieve Democratic & Sustainable Storm & Waste Water Outcomes
- ◆ Dr Jochen Kaempf
 - Desalination Plants - Consequences of Desalination Brine Discharge
- ◆ Dr Kirsten Benkendorff
 - Implications of Desalination on local Gulf Marine Life
- ◆ Community Workshops
 - Discussion of issues leading to campaigns for change.



Is There Water Fraud in SA?

- CSIRO Sustainability Yields Project – Murray Region
 - "Adelaide and SA rural town water supply would be unaffected under this or any 2030 climate (change model) scenario"
 - "The modelling indicates that levels in the Lower Lakes would not fall below mean sea level under any 2030 climate (change model) scenario, although minimal lake areas would be lower than under the historical climate in very dry years"
- Since Federation 1901
 - 64 major dams and 600,000 private dams have increased the average diversion capability of the MDB from 1,000 GL per year to around 11,500 GL.
 - The current drought according to CSIRO is a once in a 300 year event in some areas of the MDB
 - **Why the Knee Jerk Reactions; Pipelines, Weirs, Desalination?**
 - However, when you dig into the official records you find the current regulated system is still capable of diverting around 5,303 GL (2006/07) - 10 years into a protracted drought that none of the climate change models predict; these are in fact record figures given the severity of the drought over the 111 years of records of the MDB.
 - South Australia's total share was 11.8% or 628 GL (2006/07)
 - MDB Water Use; Pasture (17%), Rice (16%), Dairy Farming (17%), Cotton (20%), Horticulture, including grapes, other fruit, nuts and vegetables (13%)
 - The Murray River deposits approximately 500,000 tons of salt in the lakes every year. With no outflow this salt is concentrated by evaporation.



Is There Water Fraud in SA?

➤ More Facts

- "Adelaide's share of the Murray is 1% of average diversions & ranges from 40 (wet) to 200 GL (drought).
- Total Urban and Industry share of MDB is a meagre 5% of average diversions!
- First MDB National Water Market 2007/08 – 17 December 2008
 - Temporary allocated water was 1,594 GL at average price \$540 per megalitre i.e. 50 GL was worth \$27 million based on average prices! Using the top price for a Perpetual Water License of \$2,500 per ML, 50 GL would cost \$125 million – 8.9% of the planned capital cost of \$1.4 Billion for ADP!
 - 921 GL of water access entitlement was traded for a total of 2,515 GL!
 - But why are we buying back what we already own?
 - When did South Australians authorise the gifting of our most precious resource to the private sector – the free market?
 - This is very new – the ACCC is still working out the market rules.
- Professor Wayne Meyers 15/10/2008;
 - "Urban water use is relatively small and very high value"
 - "Adelaide's water requirement is small relative to the MDB resource and other current users.
 - Water restrictions in Adelaide will not save the Murray".
 - ABS (1995 – 2001) Profit ranged from \$0 per ML in the Upper Murrumbidgee and Upper Murray to \$832 per ML in the Riverland.



Is There Water Fraud in SA?

➤ Adelaide Coastal Waters

- Combines Stormwater and Wastewater discharges of up to 200 GL per annum has destroyed 9,000 hectares of old-growth sea grass beds (roots can be 500 to 1000 years old).
- The CSIRO ACWS of 2008 found Adelaide Coastal Waters are endangered!
- Adelaide Coastal Waters basically operate like a bath-tub, stop every now and then and prevailing winds keep waters in-shore. Poorly controlled dredging has contributed significantly to turbidity and smothering of marine life.
- Our Gulfs are unique in the World and are inverse estuaries (more water evaporates than flows in).
- The common Tommy Ruff spawns in South West Western Australia (as does the Australian Salmon) and is carried into South Australia's Gulfs by the Leeuwin Current .
- Blue Swimmer Crabs, Western King Prawns and Mangroves are tropical species!



Cheltenham Park

- If the whole of Cheltenham Park was used as a wetland area Colin Pitman said "if we could get water there, of the order of 20 to 30 GL or over 30% of Adelaide's consumption". 20/9/2008
- "By way of comparison; Adelaide's Kangaroo Creek Reservoir has a storage capacity of 19.2 GL and a water surface area of 103 Hectares. Who in their right mind would drain Kangaroo Creek Reservoir to build houses and yet this is exactly what is being planned for Cheltenham Park right in the heart of the western suburbs of Adelaide." (FGSV ERDC Submission 9/11/08)

11/8/2005 – Torrens Outlet



Is There Water Fraud in SA?

➤ NWC – Australian Water Markets Report (4.3) 2007-2008 p75

- The operational and regulatory basis for South Australia's trading framework is contained in **statutory Water Allocation Plans**. These plans specify environmental and consumptive shares for each 'prescribed' water area, and the trading rules that apply to the prescribed area. Trading is only permissible within a prescribed area (i.e. trading is not permitted or feasible between areas). All trades, including water licence transfers"
- Under the National Resources Management Act 2004 (SA), which was amended to provide for the unbundling of a water licences into marketable components to comply with the Commonwealth's Water Act of 2008, the signature of the Minister is all that is required to privatise all water of economic value in South Australia without any public or parliamentary debate or vote by South Australians in a referendum! This is outrageous!
- This is downright deceitfulness that raises significant democratic concerns and calls into question the integrity of our parliamentary system, our politicians and South Australia's media institutions.



➤ My Personal Thoughts:

- South Australia must have a wide ranging and public Royal Commission into water use and management with a scope agreed to by the Community.
- A State of Emergency be established in the MDB with the full support of the Commonwealth to ensure water use is prioritised, the market suspended and the environment of the Murray given priority over external markets. Scope needs to be agreed to by the Community.
- A wide-ranging and public Interstate Royal Commission be established with scope agreed to by the Community.

4/11/2008 Gomersal Road Tanunda SA – Conversion of dry acre farm to grapevine irrigation during the worst drought in history of the MDB.



Maude Barlow in Conversation on Water



Saturday 4th April 2009, 1 – 3 pm

Grainger Studio
91 Hindley Street

Bookings Essential – Cost \$10
Tickets from Imprints Booksellers
107 Hindley Street Adelaide

Facilitator – Professor Rhonda Sharp

Hawke Research Unit – University of South Australia

Professor Diane Bell – River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group

Julie Pettett – CEO Conservation Council of SA

John Caldecott – President Friends of Gulf St Vincent

Peter Laffan – Chairperson Save Our Gulf Coalition

Darian Hiles – Chairperson Australian Civic Trust Inc

Dr. Ian Douglas – Fair Water Use (Australia)



References

- **ACCC and its role in the National Water Market**
 - <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/809334>
- **CSIRO Adelaide Coastal Water Study 2008**
 - <http://www.csiro.au/solutions/AdelaideCoastalWaters.html>
- **National Water Commission First Market Report 17th December 2009 (section 4.3)**
 - <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/956-first-national-water-markets-report---17-dec-08.asp>
- **Senate Inquiry Lower Lakes Submission by John Caldecott 29th September 2008**
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/lowerlakes_coorong/submissions/sub82.pdf
- **Water Wednesday - 15 October 2008 Professor Wayne Meyers**
 - <http://water.adelaide.edu.au/events/2008/event5.html>
- **Water management in the Coorong and Lower Lakes**
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/SEnate/committee/rrat_ctte/lowerlakes_coorong/interim_report/report.pdf
- **Presentation of Results of Water Availability in the MDB**
 - <http://www.csiro.au/resources/MDBSY-final-report-presentation.html>
- **Presentation of Results from the Murray Region: CSIRO Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Yields Project**
 - <http://www.csiro.au/resources/MurrayPresentation.html>
- **TAR-RU The Story of Lake Victoria MDBC 1st January 2003**
 - http://publication.mdbc.gov.au/product_info.php?products_id=179&osCsid=70d19167c9d599f9af3ca2d911b2a4f3
- **Senate Inquiry into Goulburn River by John Caldecott 2nd February 2009**
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/eca_ctte/water_amendment_bill_2008/submissions/sublist.htm