

## **Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission**

### **Date submitted**

27/11/2014

### **Name of Organisation/Individual**

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### **What are the top policies from the Green Paper that the Government should focus on in the White Paper and why?**

Having read the Green Paper, I was inspired to place two thoughts on the record for consideration by the Review Panel and to prompt comment by the public on my train of thought.

#### **DROUGHT**

It seems that drought has been taken as a given "macro".

Water on farms is not all or none or "environmental" water as categorised by the Green Paper.

My classification of "water" includes:-

1)Personal water being that needed to sustain human life. There is an obligation on the State to supply this in Australia regardless of cost just as education and medical aid is given.

2)House or Personal hygiene water for washing and toiletry and home cleanliness.

Breeding stock survival water being that needed to sustain sufficient breeding stock to enable restocking when sufficient crops return.

Then we have environmental water.

3)Pasture water.

4)Crop water.

5)Irrigation water etc. depend on the ratio of [availability] to [possible use] which gets back to the basic economic premise of scarce supply and multiple competing uses.

As an aside, the ancient Egyptians varied the tax rate depending on the level of flood water of the Nile each year. This civilisation prospered for several millennium.

#### **MENINDEE LAKES.**

As one travels across outback New South Wales, the evaporation rates increases.

By the time we get to Menindee, it is 85%. This implies that 5 out of 6 quantities of water will evaporate each year.

The estimate of time between sufficient rain to re fill Menindee Lakes on average is once in each ten years. This is called reliability.

Mathematically, we need to store 60 million quantities of water to reliability accessing just one. No wonder there are insufficient flows past Menindee.

For three years the number is 316 being  $(6 \times 6 \times 6)$ .

If we can guarantee a surge down the Darling River from Toowoomba or the Upper Clarence River once each three years, we can lessen the massive evaporation at this site and restore the flow to the Murray.

The Lakes were expanded in 1962 to enable Broken Hill to process more royalty paying minerals. This reason has been depleted and the water is used partly to have green house lawns throughout the whole year.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme and Murray Mouth were trouble free from inception at the start of the 19th century until the first drought after 1962.

**What policies from the Green Paper don't you support and why?**

They delay in commencement of building meaningful new dams.

**General Comment**

The water pipeline from the Ord River to Perth should be revisited. This time cost in the benefit of supplying water to all the intermediary towns, cities and possible irrigation paddocks. The previous costings seems to have only assumed the water would go in one end and out the other .