

The last line of page 8 of Issues paper, mentions "additional water supplies and new dam and irrigation infrastructure".

In regard to this matter of water supplies, we must stay positively aware of the possibility (economically and technologically) of massive, desalinated water-flows from the Vic, or SA, or NSW coasts, inland to the Murray Darling Basin.

If the White Paper was about energy and North America in the 1970's, rather than about agriculture and Australia in the 2010's, we would be being told that the Canadian Athabasca tar-sands were full of oil, but that exploitation of them might never be feasible technically or affordable economically; and yet these tar-sands are now being successfully exploited during the 2010's.

Translate this to the Murray Darling Basin, and perhaps world food production will be greatly enhanced, within fifty years, by technically feasible, economically profitable, massive, desalinated water-flows from the coast to the MDB area.

We must be proactive about this potential. Another technical advance could provide impetus to the feasibility of such water-flows, within fifty years or so, such as the advent of fusion electricity.

Nowadays we are talking of reducing fossil-fuel usage, but the food production issue is different, and we are looking instead to increase food production. So it is incumbent on Australia to be proactive about the geo-hydration of potential, and existing, land-based (and freshwater aqua-cultural) areas.

(Submission for DPMC Agriculture White Paper, by Callum MacGillivray, April 2014).