

INQUIRY INTO A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR SYDNEY

Name: Dr Judith Greenwood

Telephone:

Date Received: 3/02/2006

Subject:

Summary

Dear Madam or Sir,

As a chemical engineer, I have had long experience with desalination including working with desalination and attending seminars on research improvements in desalination.

I regard desalination as a poor solution to Sydney's water supply for the following reasons:

- Extensive studies in the USA have shown that water conserving devices and education are more cost effective solution for water cycle management
- Studies of desalination in California, which has similar topography to NSW, showed that desalination is only viable when electricity cost is below \$86/MWh. The current unsubsidised cost of electricity in Sydney is \$103MWh
- The same study indicated that reclamation of water from sewerage used 0.5 – 1.2 KWh/m³ of water where as desalination used 4.4 kWh/m³ water.

In any case, it is morally abhorrent to choose a water provision option that depends on the burning of fossil fuels. It breaches the principles of intergenerational equity and would show that Australia is not intending to honour our stated commitment to reduce Greenhouse gas generation.

The provision of desalinated water may serve certain vested interests, but it is certainly not in the long term interest of the people of NSW.