

# WATER FORUM

## Morley

### SUMMARY OF PLENARY SESSIONS

2 September 2002



Office of  
Water Regulation



Water and Rivers  
Commission



## Context

The Morley Water Forum was held on the 2 September 2002.

The purpose of the water forums that have been arranged across the State is to:

- Provide the community with information relevant to the area or region on issues such as; climate change and its impacts, water supply and wastewater management, future demand, and water conservation, re-use and supply options.
- Develop greater community awareness of the current research and other work being undertaken on sustainable use and management of water resources.
- Provide an opportunity for people to identify issues, give feedback and contribute ideas to the Water Symposium to be held at Parliament House in October 2002.

## Key Issues Raised by the Community

Throughout the day a number of plenary sessions were held to provide community members with the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions from the various presentations. The issues and questions raised by the community in each session are summarised in the following tables.

Following the plenary sessions, participants were asked to identify the issue of greatest importance to them by placing a dot (vote) on the recorded flipcharts.

This document summarises the issues and questions raised and the voting priority of the people present at the forum.

**First Plenary Session**

<i>Issue / Questions raised</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1. Where would water come from in the event of a terrorist attack or a similar extreme event?	
2. In NSW & Tasmania requirements are in place to make all new homes install a rainwater tank. Why not in Perth?	1
3. Management of catchment. Can we use roaded catchment or reduce vegetation to improve efficiency? Can dams be covered to reduce evaporation loss in dams?	
4. Hard surface catchment areas leading into dams. Using concrete or plastic. Also, why not run a competition to discover new ways to achieve this.	1
5. What is the Government looking to do to create an integrated (Policy) approach to greenhouse emissions and water supply and the approach taken with major developments that have significant additional emissions?	6
6. Has population growth been taken into consideration within water supply planning?	1
7. The centre for water research has predicted water supply shortage in Perth of 407GI by 2030 and significant groundwater impacts – should we continue to utilise groundwater? We need to ensure that our resource use is sustainable and water is available for future generations.	1
8. Removal of pines from Gngalara - Has the impact of acidic soils been considered? Has this impacted the water resource?	1
9. The focus needs to be on sensible ways to reduce household water use – tanks, watering etc.	
10. Transpiration and rainfall intensity – Does alteration of vegetation change rainfall?	
11. Supply security – If it is not possible to drought using dams and aquifers, have other options, such as desalination and reclaimed water been factored in?	
12. What impact have the 130,000 bores had on the water table?	
13. Paying more will not mean we use less – the Government should look for other options.	
14. Common sense approach using the 3 rivers in the North of WA. We have more water than we know what to do with but need to look to better solution.	1
15. Desalination – Tampa Bay experience suggest that costs as low as 55c/Kl are possible – need to factor in the cost of rainfall variability for traditional sources to achieve a more even comparison.	2
16. With Agriculture such a large user, what research has been done to look at dryland crop options – olives etc?	2

17.	Has a cost estimate been done for use of non-chemical approaches to water sterilisation (UV or Ozonation) as opposed to aggressive chemicals such as chlorine – can alternatives be promoted for end users?	
18.	What is Agricultural water used for - ie grass growing or horticulture? Are Agricultural users required to pay a fair amount for the water?	1
19.	We need to get our priorities right – do we need a Mandurah-Perth railway or water in our dams? We must not rob Peter to pay Paul and priorities must be clear.	
20.	Are there any environmental considerations/impacts associated with desalination? Wastewater from desalination (higher salinity) must have an impact. Has this been assessed?	1
21.	Costs of building current sources and not building the pipeline needs to be considered. A better comparison of all cost of pipeline vs desalination vs bores vs dams must be made – including benefits such as employment.	3
22.	Has there been a study into the culture of water use in Perth? What about a minimum allowance and then pay for use beyond that.	3
23.	Solar power station near Kalgoorlie – what impact will this have on localised air pressure and weather?	
24.	Energy to pump water from the north – why not use wind or tidal power?	2
25.	Aeration of soil – what impact does this have on water supply – can farmers be educated on this issue? Compaction caused by Agricultural processes – machinery & animals.	1

## Second Plenary Session

	<i>Issue / Questions raised</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Is there any argument supporting decentralisation to move the population to geographical areas where resources exist?	1
2.	Gingin and Lennard Rock – Government could buy the farms in this area and redirect water to Perth.	
3.	40% of water used for Agriculture – what is being done to improve water use efficiency in this sector?	8
4.	Why hasn't the private industry and Water Corporation promoted the use of greywater? Also, waterless toilets save up to 60,000 litres of water per household per year. These options should be considered.	10
5.	Changes to residential codes consolidation of block sizes etc in 1985 – has this changed the water consumption or revenue?	
6.	What happened to the cloud seeding experiments that took place in the past?	
7.	Rivers are not infinite resources and we need to keep this in mind when considering using rivers.	1
8.	Who benefits from the changing nature of urban development – Developers or the Public? Changes to urban density (increasing) cause rise to numerous environmental and social issues.	3
9.	Is there a conflict of interest with the Water Corporation as a service provider and role in conservation?	2
10.	Possibility of using pricing to reduce wastage of high income, high water users.	1
11.	Water saving options – tanks, greywater etc provide only a small saving and only in Perth. This is a drop in the ocean by comparison to our State's water use. The Kimberley water can supply all water users.	1
12.	Should water use allocation from WRC be indexed per person for a 'hot' summer and then scaled according to the weather conditions that prevail?	2
13.	Concreting catchments and channelling to dams could also be used to generate electricity.	1
14.	What would be the impact of privatisation of the Water Corporation? Is this likely in the future?	

## Third Plenary Session

<i>Issue / Questions raised</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1. Greywater – does the Department of Health approve grease traps and bucket filters before application to gardens?	
2. Greywater systems are expensive to retrofit, however are much more cost effective package into new homes. Does the housing industry support such a packaging approach?	2
3. Is there a tool or process used to measure sustainability of various solutions? How is this done currently? Triple bottom line assessment.	
4. Local Councils should install water waving devices to their buildings to demonstrate leadership to the community.	7
5. Housing design – current approach in Australia was imported from Europe and still uses technology and material from a long time ago. What is the building industry doing to improve building design and technology? Currently they are lagging.	
6. Where does the Water Corporation get information on personal water use in the home?	1
7. Garden design – we can easily reduce garden use by reducing lawn areas. We need more promotion on how to reduce lawn areas – information needs to be more readily available on alternatives (tiles, woodchips etc)	3
8. To what extent is the use of native plants incorporated into garden designs to significantly reduce water use?	4
9. If people stop watering street verges we will no longer have tree lined streets or verges. Will Local Councils start watering them and what will this mean for rate payers?	7
10. Can reclaimed water be treated to the point where it can be reused for primary (potable) supply?	2

