

Dear Malcolm,

I have recently presented to the National Water Commission and the Queensland and Victorian Governments, and proposed radical solutions to Australia's water crisis.

My research demonstrates that we in Australia receive some million litres of rain per person per day. We appear to be short of water because we only harvest 1 in 2,000 of the litres of rain that falls in our conventional systems of dams and catchments. My core presentation was on technologies which would enable us to harvest the rain that we are currently missing.

The validity of these technical arguments seem to be widely accepted, the core problem being the mechanics of adoption which does not fit into any of the currently established entities. Essentially there is agreement on the need to harvest this unused water but everyone thinks that it is someone else's role, to research these ideas further.

My proposal is that the Federal Government establishes a small group to co-ordinate the adoption of these technologies. There are already well established organisations such as the C.R.C. for irrigation futures, the D.P.I. in Queensland and the Toowoomba Council who have all the resources to implement the first phase which would essentially be a demonstration project. What is needed is the driving force to make it happen and the vision to see how this could be expanded to a National scale.

I present my ideas here as two separate documents. The first takes a step back to overview the organisational issues, which I hope you have time to look at. The second is more concerned with the technologies which I am enclosing so you can at least see that there is a firm basis for the technologies.

As I have not written to you before and am sensitive to the number of letters you must receive from a spectrum of people, I am also enclosing a synopsis of my activities in the field of technical innovation so you can see this proposal is coming from a credible source.

I look forward to your suggestions on how to move onto the next stage.

Yours sincerely

Colin Austin