

October 2006: Edition 7

“Snippets Plus” compiled using information from the Australian Water Association, Murray Darling Association, FarmOnline & various other sources including various printed media & presentations attended.

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Murray Darling Association – “For Conservation and Sustainable Development”

MDA

Drought slows progress in saving Murray Darling

The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council has expressed its serious concern about the increasingly severe on-going drought and its likely effects on individuals, communities, irrigators and the environmental health of the river. Ministers at Friday's meeting agreed to work cooperatively to minimise the impact of the current low water resource availability on all the users of the system. With the six months ending August 2006, being the driest in more than 100 years of recording, the Ministerial Council released the September 2006 drought update and noted that if there is another dry year in 2007-08, water availability might almost solely be reliant on inflows received next year.

The Council requested the Commission to continue issuing regular drought updates while the current conditions continue. The Council also urged the Commission to expedite programs, especially to deliver capital works for the Living Murray program and Salt Interception Schemes. In particular, Council noted that the Australian Government's \$500m will permit an acceleration of capital works at the Living Murray Icon Sites over the next five years.


The Council also noted that since April two salt interception schemes, Pyramid Creek and Bookpurnong have been commissioned and that the Buronga Salt Interception Scheme is to be launched next week. In relation to the Living Murray Program, the Council welcomed the approximately 35GL of water which will be available for environmental management this year. About 25GL of this water comes from savings made by Victoria and New South Wales in relation to the Snowy Scheme with the remainder a donation from South Australia, likely to be part of The Living Murray Program in the future.

The priority sites for using this water will be floodplain vegetation at Chowilla, Hattah Lakes, Lindsay Island and Wallpolla Island and for the fish-ways connecting the Lower Lakes and The Coorong.

Water crisis: States blasted for failing to build water infrastructure

Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile, has pledged to campaign alongside Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Malcolm Turnbull, to hold State Labour governments accountable for failing to build water infrastructure. The States have also failed to reform water policy to address the current water crisis. Mr Vaile said the creation of the Office of Water Resources would add to the Federal Government's firepower.

It would work alongside the National Water Commission. Water policy experts in the Department of Transport and Regional Services, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Heritage would also contribute.

 “I share the real frustration and unhappiness of Australians that the states are still failing to match the Federal Government's action on water,” Mr Vaile said. “The biggest problem facing rural and regional Australia right now is the very real potential for the current five-year drought to extend further.”

"The below average rainfall during autumn and winter across Australia's southern half is consistent with the developing stages of an El Nino event resulting in less rainfall for eastern Australia. "In-flow into the Murray-Darling basin has been the lowest since records began and so irrigators are looking at a very tough summer.

“I visited Parkes yesterday and met with local farmers to discuss the situation in what is normally one of the country's most secure agricultural districts.


"If they don't receive rain in the next week their worst fears will be realised."

“State Labour Ministers must come to this week’s Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting with money and advanced plans to make the most of the \$500 million injection the Commonwealth has given the Living Murray Initiative.

Irrigated farms generate one-quarter of Australia's ag output

Irrigated farms generate one-quarter of the gross value of Australia's agricultural production, according to a joint report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Productivity Commission. The gross value of irrigated production was \$9 billion in 2003-04. Irrigated horticulture made up 52pc of the gross value.

Then came irrigated pastures (24pc) and irrigated broad acre crops (24pc).

The report found that irrigated farms with a higher value of production incurred lower ongoing irrigation expenses relative to their irrigation water use.  They were more likely to recycle irrigation water and use irrigation scheduling equipment. Irrigated farms of all sizes engaged in the trade of irrigation water, although water trading was not a frequent event for most farms.

Farms with irrigated pastures were the most active water traders, with 43pc participating in some form of trade in the three years to 2003-04, compared with 36pc for broad acre and 27pc for horticulture farms.

The collaborative arrangement between the ABS and the Productivity Commission was the first of its type between the two organisations. Its success demonstrates the potential for research and analysis of ABS data sets.

Cobb slams 'heartless' NSW Government

The Nationals Member for Parkes, John Cobb, says he is appalled the NSW Government is cutting drought funding for rural financial counsellors. Mr Cobb said the electorate of Parkes had been the hardest hit of any in the country.

He is rotable that financial contributions to Rural Financial Counselling Services will be cut at this crucial time.

The Commonwealth, recognising the severity of the current drought, has increased its funding for rural financial counselling in NSW.

Its share will rise from \$2.4m in 2005-06 to \$3.2m in 2006-07 - 33pc increase.

In contrast the NSW Government who were only putting in \$1.6 million have slashed their contribution by an incredible 50pc, to just \$813,000.

That's despite NSW looking down the barrel of the lowest yielding grain crop result since 2002.

“To assume that the drought is over and to cut funding to this vital drought support service is a disgrace,” Mr Cobb says. "It will result in the loss of at least 3 rural financial counsellors in NSW."

Adelaide Advertiser: 3rd October 06 Beach beckons but farmers still miss out

Beachgoers will enjoy hotter than normal weather this summer but that means farmers are unlikely to see any end to the drought until well into next year.

Murray Valley Standard: 3rd October 06 Hopes dry up

For the first time in history water allocations for River Murray irrigators will be reduced from mid October, from 80% to 70%.

Water target could be met

The Murray darling Commission has announced it is three-fifths on the way towards its target of delivering water back into the system through the Living Program.

AWA

PM Howard is planning to take control of the water agenda by creating a federal Office of Water Resources as part of a renewed effort to coordinate all departmental plans at federal and state levels for water recycling, cleaning and marketing within his own department.

A \$2 billion list from state governments for National Water Savings Projects including improving flow in Sydney's rivers using recycled sewage; a desalination plant for Adelaide; supplementation of Perth's drinking water from an aquifer some 110km away; and Queensland's western corridor recycled water pipeline has been served up to the office.

The official National Water Week Event Calendar is now live! Register National Water Week events or view events already listed in the calendar at. This year National Water Week is from 15-21 October 2006.

SA's River Murray Minister Karlene Maywald says Water Allocations for South Australian irrigators will be reduced from 80% to 70% from mid-October, the first time ever reduced mid-season. Only 112 GL inflow to the Murray has been recorded for September, compared to the previous minimum of 178GL in 1902 (average September inflow 1558GL).

Water Corporation WA has obtained indigenous heritage clearances for the 2nd wastewater treatment plant site in Broome and is completing final planning. The current permanent population of approx 16,000 people is expected to double by 2021, plus more tourists.

Four consortia have been short-listed and asked to tender for design and construction of Sydney Water's advanced water treatment plant, associated infrastructure and its maintenance for at least 10 years as part of the Western Sydney Recycled Water Initiative, a key plank in the NSW Government's Metropolitan Water Plan.

The SA Government has announced that it will spend \$241m over the next 4 years to restore the Murray River - about \$10m will be spent in 2006-07 on furthering SA Water's water recovery target of 35 GL under the Living Murray Initiative and investing in other beneficial recovery measures interstate to secure 500 GL for the River by 2009.

Porters Creek Wetland Stormwater Harvesting has won \$2.6m from the Water Smart Australia Program 2006, towards the total of \$16.22m to harvest stormwater and reuse it; potentially adding 5.4 GL/yr to the regional supply for WYONG, NSW.

Widcorp (Water in Drylands Collaborative Research Program) has conducted a major survey into community attitudes about the Wimmera Mallee pipeline, the biggest water infrastructure project currently in Australia.

Queensland Deputy Premier Bligh has announced two consortia (McDonnell Dowell and Abigroup; and AJ Lucas, Transfield Services and McCalls) have won the tenders to build major pipelines for the Western Corridor Recycling Project.

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group has published the Groundwater Management Handbook - A Guide for Local Government. The Handbook contains technical, educational and environmental information for sustainable groundwater management that can be applied throughout NSW, with a particular focus on the Sydney coastal region.

Ollie's Island, an interactive environmental education product developed in conjunction with AWA was launched in Melbourne 22 September.

An influential British think tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) reports that water companies are saving no more than a mug of water/customer/year due to their failure to invest in household water conservation measures. It calls for water efficiency targets and installation of more water meters as a way of jolting companies into action.

Water Environment Federation has adopted the World Water Monitoring Day, an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources globally. The program aims to engage communities in monitoring local rivers, estuaries, streams etc.

DR James Horne has been appointed as head of the new Office of Water in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

PM Howard has formed a special water policy unit within his own department to speed action on implementing water policy and negotiated reforms.

While reaffirming that he intends the new Office of Water to be housed within his own department, PM Howard has appointed James Horne as its manager.

Treasurer Costello has backed a commonwealth takeover of interstate rivers to centralise regulatory power as the Government warned that urban water was "too cheap".

New dams vital for Victoria: Family First's water policy

Family First is calling for new dams to be built in Victoria to boost and secure the state's water supplies for the future. The party says Victoria desperately needs more water and building dams is arguably the cheapest, and most sensible, way of addressing our water crisis.

Launching Family First's water policy today, Victorian leader, Cameron Eastman, said, "Banning new dams is stupid. Yet for the last 20 years or so no politician has even dared talk about building more dams. With continued population growth, a 'no dams' policy is simply not an option. The situation is critical." Family First believes new dams would be exciting nation-building projects.

"They would create thousands of new jobs for Victorians and pump billions of dollars into our economy," Cameron said.

"The Thomson Dam in Gippsland, opened in 1983, was the last major dam built in Victoria and, "It supplies 60pc of Melbourne's water. Melbourne will have one million more people by 2030; so another reservoir of similar size to the Thomson will be needed urgently. A national problem over water shortages has been watered down by politics and competing interests".

Adelaide Advertiser: 4th October 06 Record lamb slaughter

The drought has forced a record number of lambs to be processed in South Australia as livestock producers are forced to off load stock.

\$825 Surplus: Drought cloud over economy

The drought in regional Victoria has cast a dark cloud over the State's economy. Growth in the next year would be weaker than expected, Treasurer John Brumby warned.

FarmOnline: 5th October 06 Northern Water Development under spotlight at ANCID

The Australian National Council on Irrigation and Drainage will attempt to tackle the contentious debate surrounding development of Northern Australia's vast water resources at its annual conference next week. With debate raging among irrigators, environmentalists and politicians about the future development of the north, ANCID executive director, Kim Russell, says the time is right for a detailed discussion of all aspects of the issue. The conference will follow the theme: "The North - Opportunities for the Future - The Catchment Community Working Together". "All participants in the water resources and irrigation sector, freshwater ecology researchers, environmental interests, recreational fishers, indigenous community representatives, the private sector and agricultural industry representatives should make it a priority to attend this event," Mr Russell said. "Both Australian and State Government representatives will be there to engage and report on developments in water policy, research and reform. "The latest in the implementation of the National Water Initiative will feature as will a showcase highlighting the latest innovations in irrigation water management at the system and catchment levels. "Keynote speakers include chairman of Land and Water Australia, Bobbie Brazil, and president of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, Peter Lee. Other notable speakers include David Bryant, from Rural Funds Management, who will present a paper on investment in irrigated agriculture, and Paul Perkins, of the Barton Group, who will highlight the demands a growing world population will place on irrigated agriculture here and abroad.

McGauran slams water buyback as "lazy option"

Federal Agriculture Minister, Peter McGauran, has slammed State Government plans to buy water back from irrigators to give to the environment as a "lazy and damaging" option in this time of drought. In light of record-low inflows and forecasts of more dry weather, the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council (MDBC) last week agreed it was time to enter the water market to buy back flows for the environment.

On current projections, MDBC projects would return 310 gigalitres out of a target of 500GL to the environment by 2009. But with inflows at record lows, it believes urgent action is now required to keep the river alive. But Mr McGauran says the plan is a "lazy and damaging option for most irrigators and the communities that have grown up around them. I am severely disappointed that a number of states have not invested in infrastructure works on an engineering basis and are too ready to enter the market place and buy water," Mr McGauran said. The National Farmers' Federation also expressed frustration at delays in implementation of the National Water Initiative schemes to save water, but said the "by play between State and Federal governments" was counter-productive.

Fight to keep state control of water

The Federal Government will have a fight on its hands if it pursues a plan to assume control of the country's water resources. NSW irrigation farmers hit by \$29m a year 'cost recovery' water tax. New NSW water charges impose an extra tax on irrigated agriculture of \$29.4 million a year, further proving the growing financial impact of the National Water Initiative on NSW water users.

Drought wars continue over financial councillors

The NSW Government has accused Federal Member for Parkes, John Cobb, of playing "political games" over drought assistance funding for rural financial counsellors.

Water flows to Vic's most stressed rivers

Environmental works and environmental water flows are helping restore and maintain the health of Victoria's rivers for future generations, Water Minister, John Thwaites, said today.

SunRice guarantees \$320/tonne in NSW water scramble

The competition for water is on in southern NSW, where SunRice has offered its growers a minimum price guarantee of \$320 a tonne to grow rice this season, rather than sell water at its current high prices or use it for other crops.

The River News: 4th October 06

Maywald urges ministerial council to address risks

SA River Murray minister says incremental progress has again been made at last Friday's Murray Darling Murray-Basin Ministerial Council meeting in Sydney.

In addition to the Living Murray target, Minister Maywald says the council must urgently address the following three risk the, which threaten to derail the progress being made: 1) Managing unregulated flows; 2) Address the risks to the Murray as a shared resource; 3) Reform Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Governance.

More cuts in water use

River Murray Minister says water allocations for SA irrigators will be reduced from 80% to 70% from mid October – the first time they have ever been reduced mid-season.

Murray water to Ballarat – next stop Melbourne?

The Murray Darling Association Annual General Meeting in late September was alerted to the application for River Murray water to be piped to Bendigo and Ballarat and the Association's members indicated their alarm at such an application being made.

Adelaide Advertiser: 6th October 06

Murray salt

More than 17,000 tonnes of salt will be prevented from entering the River Murray yearly following yesterday's opening of a \$4.5m upgrade to the Buronga salt scheme, the NSW Government says.

Adelaide Advertiser: 7th October 06

“An Extremely Worrying and Thought Provoking Feature”

Water Shortage: Effect of the EL Nino-induced drought will be felt far from bush communities

Murray malaise will spread to our towns

6.

Whilst the same scenario (the drying up of the River Murray in 1915) is not expected to be repeated next year, the implication along the length of the river system nevertheless will be devastating. Perhaps, most tellingly, the problems of the farming community are expected to be brought home to city people as rarely before by the River Murray crisis.

The introduction of unprecedented water restrictions inside and outside the home, higher food prices and more imported food in supermarkets are just a few of the likely impacts.

From me: *“As we are the cause of the problem we must find the solution” as Ray Najar (MDA General Manager) said in the above article, “if Australia was serious about beating water shortages, it would find solutions, including storm water harvesting, water treatment and recycling”*

From me again, *“ We must embrace all technology with the aim of the re-use of water from any source*

SPORTS grounds: Sprinklers allowed only twice a week between 8pm & 8am.

Five billion litres short

The State Government plan to safe guard water supplies for Adelaide and the surrounding region will have a shortfall of about five billion litres in drier years.

Under the plan:

HOUSEHOLD water use would be cut by 22%, through measures such as education programs and a Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme on appliances.

INCREASING the use of rainwater from 2000ML to 20,000ML.

INCREASING the use of recycled water for agriculture from 14,000ML to 30,000ML.

CUTTING commercial and industrial water use by 2000ML a year through water audits to pinpoint inefficient use.

PROGRAMS to reduce the leaks in the SA Water system.

The plan aims to reduce reliance on the River Murray, as well as reducing discharges in to Gulf St Vincent.

The State examined and rejected a range of options including 1) towing icebergs, 2) cloud seeding, 3) recycling greywater, 4) desalination, 5) new hills reservoirs, 6) mining sewers and 7) piping water from interstate rivers.

My comment: 1) A bad dream: 2) Should not be totally rejected: 3) Must be fully investigated: 4) The book should be left open: 5) Too expensive because of pollutants from building on the hills face zones: 6) Head in the sand the yuk factor: 7) Why would other States allow this?

Adelaide Advertiser: 9th October 06

HOUSEBOATS: Waste damaging quality of water

Push to stamp out Murray 'ratbags'

Boat owners should be banned from living permanently on the ailing River Murray, the Boating Industry says.

"The rubbish and pollution that some of these craft generate is just unbelievable" BIA General Manager Glen Jones.

Water projects are 'being put on hold'

The State Government has been accused of delaying water-infrastructure projects so it can pay \$46M towards new SA Water city headquarters, the Opposition has claimed.

MDA

Water waste at Menindee Lakes under investigation

Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Malcolm Turnbull, has released funding for a joint feasibility study into options to improve the water supply and management of the notoriously inefficient Menindee Lakes system.

The Federal Government's Water Smart Australia Program will provide 50pc of the \$761,000 cost of the study to identify water saving options.

The Menindee Lakes are a series of large storages which were, in their natural state, ephemeral lakes filled only during floods. Between 1949 and 1968 the lakes were turned into permanent storages and have a total capacity when full of 2030 gegalitres, or four times the volume of Sydney Harbour.

"Because the lakes are large, shallow storages in an arid area, the evaporative losses are typically close to one half of the volume stored," Mr Turnbull said. "This can be as high as 750GL a year with average losses recently estimated at 425GL are lost each year.

"Only two of the four main lakes, Pamamaroo and Wetherell, currently have water in them and the total storage of the system is about 15pc of its capacity.

In August 2006 an Environmental Impact Statement appraised a series of proposed works for the Menindee system, which were designed to improve operational efficiency and in particular to allow the two lower lakes, Menindee and Cawndilla, to be emptied more quickly and in priority to the two upper, and somewhat deeper, lakes.

However, the reduction in evaporative losses in the works proposed is small, with median water savings estimated at less than 5GL per annum.

"A key focus of the new study must be to identify measures which will substantially increase the reduction in evaporative losses," Mr Turnbull said.

Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd has been selected to undertake this study which is expected to be completed by February 2007.

NSW Government most incompetent: PM

No State Government is more frequently criticised or regarded more incompetent than that of NSW, according the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard.

In his address to a Liberal Party fundraiser in Sydney yesterday, Mr Howard strongly endorsed NSW Opposition Leader, Peter Debnam, in his bid to win government in March next year.

Mr Howard said not only did Mr Debnam have his good wishes but also strong support for the March election next year.

"I don't like this country having eight State and Territory Labour governments." he said.

"I would like to see that change. "I'll do everything I can to help Peter Debnam bring about that change here in NSW and I commit myself and my federal colleagues to achieving that great goal."

Fight on to keep State control of water

The Federal Government will have a fight on its hands if it pursues a plan to assume control of the country's water resources.

NSW Nationals spokesman for Natural Resources, Adrian Piccoli, is vowing to go head to head with senior Liberals in Canberra if the Federal Government proceeds with any moves to change the constitution to give the Commonwealth complete power over water resources – currently a State responsibility.

Such a change has been regularly mooted by NSW Liberal Senator, Bill Heffernan.

More recently, it's been mooted by the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, Malcolm Turnbull, who will head up the newly formed Office of Water Resources created last week.

The Federal Government has expressed some frustration with the States, accusing them of being too slow to implement and progress major water reform works.

NSW irrigation farmers hit by \$29m a year 'cost recovery' water tax

New NSW water charges impose an extra tax on irrigated agriculture of \$29.4 million a year, further proving the growing financial impact of the National Water Initiative on NSW water users. The NSW Irrigators Council has reacted strongly in this way to the gazettal in full of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) 2006 bulk water price determination last week.

Irrigators council chief executive officer, Doug Miell, said the move to full cost recovery was a "rolled gold" outcome for State Water, a wholly owned government agency.

"The lack of contestability for the business operations of State Water, Murray Darling Basin Commission and Department of Natural Resources is preventing the delivery of efficient business outcomes.

"For the Premier to countenance the introduction of such a severe price hike at a time when NSW is being ravaged by extended and severe drought conditions indicates clearly that he is out of touch with reality in regional NSW."

Weeds war stepped up to curtail spread of major pests

The frontline fight against the spread of weeds throughout the country is about to be stepped up.

The Prickle Bush Management Committee (PBMG) met in North Queensland to conduct a five-year evaluation of the National Weed Strategy program and consider future actions.

The committee oversees the national arrangements for three Weeds of National Significance: parkinsonia, prickly acacia and mesquite.

On the whole, despite the species still being widely found, the meeting heard that the spread of these three weeds to new regions outside the core areas had been curtailed.

The main reasons given for the minor victory were:

- * improved species recognition
- * attacks on outlining populations,
- * strengthened interstate quarantine procedures,
- * implemented farm hygiene practices and
- * increased cooperation across State and Territory borders.

A National Weed Spread Prevention Action Plan is currently being developed.

It is expected to be released around mid October, possibly during the Weed Buster Week initiative.

FarmOnline: 10th October 06
Water waste at Menindee Lakes under investigation

One of Australia's most notoriously inefficient water storages, the Menindee Lakes, will be the subject of a Government investigation to improve its management.

Tie water ministry to Northern development: Heffernan

Outspoken Liberal Senator Bill Heffernan wants the Government to create a new Minister for Water and Northern Development ahead of the next election.

Adelaide Advertiser: 10th October 06
Water Debate
We're harassed, say rice growers: We're not stealing, so stop whingeing

South Australians should stop "bleating" about water use by the rice and cotton industries, the Ricegrowers Association of Australia said yesterday. In an extraordinary attack, association President Laurie Arthur, a rice grower of 27 years, also claimed recent editorial *Advertiser* opinion columns describing the industries as water guzzlers "weren't fussed with the facts". Mr Arthur said irrigators in the NSW River Murray Valley had not been allocated any Murray water this year and the rice industry would have to rely on bores to produce "a tiny crop".

RICE AND WATER

Rice industry uses 50% less water to grow 1kg of rice than the World average.

Improved water use efficiency by 60% in the past 10 years.

2,000 family-owned businesses employing 8000 people.

Supports 63 regional towns in the Riverina, NSW and Northern Victoria.

Produces 1 to 1.7 million tonnes per year exported to more than 70 countries.

Spends \$18m a year researching new farming techniques & generates \$500m a year for the economy.

The Tasmanian Government says talks are under way to export drinking water to drought-hit cities on mainland Australia. It has been estimated that selling water to a capital city over a 20-year period could return \$300m to Tasmania, or as much as \$1b for multiple cities.

River News: 11th October 06
SA In new territory on water trading

Uniform rules between South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales will foster full-scale trading of River Murray water allocations by the end of 2006. In the past, even though water was all from the same Murray-Darling Basin catchment, trading was governed different rules in each state, and so could be complex.

A consistent approach will simplify water trading. A vibrant water market can deliver commercial, social and environmental benefits to regional areas in better performing economies, higher productivity and stronger communities.

Trading Benefits

The value of irrigated agriculture and returns to irrigators can be increased as water is traded for use on higher value crops etc.

Road to reform

There have two hurdles in achieving a free and vibrant trade – establishing a uniform trading system and aligning each State's legislation on land and water ownership etc.

Legislation changes

For easy water trading to occur, water ownership laws must be reformed in SA and Victoria by legislative changes etc.

Future goals

SA is implementing a pilot trade program for tagged trading with NSW, which will be the subject of a September meeting of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council etc.

Adelaide Advertiser: 11th October 06

Front Page

Dry as a bone

Child stepping over the Darling River 50Km North of the junction of the Darling & Murray River

Drought is drying the Darling to dust and the water South Australia expects from Australia's longest River is nowhere to be seen.

Darling as dry as a bone

"The worst in living memory"

Alarming slide in reservoir levels

Adelaide's reservoir levels are 41,466 Megalitres lower than at this time last year.

1.8 billion to face scarcity crisis

More than 1.8 billion people will be living in regions with absolute water scarcity in the next twenty years, Parliamentary Secretary Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday

Murray Valley Standard; 12th October 06

Towns parched by driest periods

Murraylands towns have experienced some of their driest periods between June 1 until yesterday.

Adelaide Advertiser: 12th October 06

Gardens target of even tougher water use bans

Tougher water rule restricting gardeners to watering for only a few hours on alternate days will be considered by cabinet today.

Total fire bans in 12 South Australian regions today and it is only the 11th of October.

Restrictions backfire as water use rises

“I urge people to look at their water use in their homes, about shortening their showers and turning off taps”.
Acting Government Enterprises Minister John Hill.

South Australians have used 1378 megalitres more water than usual in the first week of new restrictions and the State Government has threatened even tougher rules if consumption does not drop.

Climate change ‘cost crisis’

Ignoring climate change could cost the World \$9.1 trillion, says a report released as it was revealed Australia and the U.S. were spewing excessive greenhouse gasses.

Stern Report

*Inaction on global warming will cost the global economy \$9.1 trillion – more than two World Wars and the Depression.

*The World needs to spend 1 per cent of global GDP, about \$3455.5 billion, to Avoid the predicted environmental and social fallout.

*The spread of the deserts, declining crop yields, and increased flooding could result in 200 million “refugees”.

* The report recommends doubling research and development spending to about \$26 billion.

GLOBAL WARMING

The Federal Government has accused Labour of using scare tactics to stall debate about technology’s benefits in limiting global warming. Industry Minister Ian McFarlane weighed into the growing debate surrounding nuclear energy yesterday, as he announced \$125 million in funding for two Queensland projects tasked with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

