



10th October 2009
Reference: WAC Open Letter to Premier: Plea for Action
From: WAC Patron & Honorary Reference Group

Hon MIKE RANN MP
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Premier,

Water - it's the most essential item along with oxygen to sustain life. Without it life as we know it will not survive. The water crisis is perhaps the most urgent ecological and human threat of our time.

We have polluted, diverted and displaced so much water from where it is needed that once great and vibrant river and lake systems are collapsing and interdependent ecosystems are dying.

South Australians are not alone in their increasing anxiety about their future water supply. It is central to life and through its water-cycle connected to everything; the economy, society, freshwater and marine ecosystems are but examples.

Our aim, as concerned South Australians who have witnessed the disturbing changes to our river systems, lakes and Gulfs, is for Governments, both State and Federal to reconsider many of the actions now being taken.

Building more dams, diversions and now desalination plants will not provide sustainable solutions or guarantee security of supply for generations to come but create more problems.

Our plea to Government legislators is to think again by adopting legislation and actions that will:

- secure all water in its rivers, streams and groundwater as the common property of Australia - not to be traded as a profitable commodity;
- deliver viable supply and reuse systems to all communities, city and country, without harm to interdependent ecosystems;
- ensure that water is managed efficiently and effectively for community use today and conserved for future generations; and
- respect indigenous knowledge of water conservation and its importance to Australia's oldest culture.

A fresh water secure future depends now on cooperation of all levels of government and a plan based on the principles of public trust, watershed restoration, conservation, fair sharing and the human right to water.

Yours sincerely,

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International Water Adviser (Patron)

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