

MY SUBMISSION TO THE GARNAUT
REVIEW
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From

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Submission to Garnaut Review
By Estelle Ross Riverside Tasmania April 9th 2008

- At present, State and Federal Governments hand out massive subsidies annually to fossil fuel industries. For every \$28 spent on the latter a mere \$1 is spent on renewable energy.* These figures should be reversed. Serious consideration should be given to phasing out the coal industry. Workers should be retrained in renewable industries. Australia could lead the world in solar power technology, wind farms and biochar production if these industries were given the subsidies at present given to fossil fuels. Electric car manufacture should also be encouraged. General Motors in the USA way back in the 1970's had produced a great little car but due to constant pressure from fossil fuels lobbyists they were scrapped. Since then battery technology has come a long way and we could once again have a thriving motor vehicle industry here in Australia, employing 1000's of people and saving enormous amounts of emissions.
- We should encourage more people to cycle by introducing cycle ways etc and perhaps consider bringing back electric trams for larger towns and cities.
- All Australians should be encouraged to conserve energy and water supplies. Maybe a nationwide competition with a large inducement for the person who comes up with the best conservation idea could be implemented
- Australia-wide it should be made mandatory that all new buildings have solar power and water tanks installed and rebates given to assist this. Rebates should also apply to those who retrofit these systems on existing properties. Federal funds should be given to local councils to pay for this.
- We have to initiate a nationwide water audit and risk assessment. We have to realise that we cannot build

a dam for example in one area without it affecting another area. Therefore constant cooperation is required at a nationwide level. Ground water and surface water should not be treated as separate entities; what affects one also affects the other.

- We must prevent the privatization of water at all costs. There have been worldwide problems where this has been allowed to happen. **
- We need to focus away from industries that depend heavily on water like cotton production, pulp mills etc and instead focus on alternate less water-hungry crops.
- Managed Investment Schemes for forestry plantations should be banned. They deny the Federal Government millions of dollars in tax receipts, are draining our ground water at an alarming rate and causing the conversion of millions of hectares of farmland creating a heavy loss to the dairy industry.
- Federal Government needs to supply funds to regional areas to upgrade their water and sewerage needs. The use of Bio-sol in sewage systems should be investigated, as it can reduce wear and tear on infrastructure, plus increase the rate at which sewage breaks down, reduces cost and odour and greenhouse gas emissions.***

*Reidy C 2007 Energy and Transport Subsidies in Australia report to Greenpeace.

** Article by Dr Patricia Randal entitled Access to Water: an essential service or a profitable commodity published in booklet "Water-Policy Needs and the Future by Now We The People, Tasmania.

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