



SUBMISSION
NUMBER

Inquiry 6

DATE AUTH'D
FOR
PUBLICATION

investment
to

Submission to the House of Assembly
into the best options for ACT Government
in maintaining water supply with

a) likely impact of climate change

The impact of climate change is likely to be a continuing
drying of the area. Therefore there has to be a change in
emphasis in the territory's response.



b) the extent to which demand reduction strategies have
been implemented.

These strategies have had considerable success so far,
but they are being negated by the continuing push for
growth in population, building and business activities.
It is wrong to promote growth in Canberra, considering
that the Murray-Darling Basin is struggling to survive
as an ecological unit in its own right, let alone as a
food-producing area.

Plans should be made to cut growth, and to reach a
steady state.

In the meantime any new subdivision, or re-development
of existing areas should be planned with water and energy
efficiency in mind. This has to be considered before even
doing the subdivision, as solar access and water use should
govern the actual block sizes and aspect of blocks.

Buildings should be as water-wise as possible, preferably
independent of the mains, with buildings catching and
recycling their own water, and with composting toilets.
Businesses that use large amounts of water should recycle
their own water and reuse it, or they should be discouraged
from operating.

d) the role of Canberra as Australia's capital and provider of water to the largest population in the Murray-Darling Basin. This role inevitably means large numbers of diplomatic corps, politicians and political staffers, business visitors and tourists. These people all need to be counted when looking at Canberra's total population.

All residents, whichever category they belong to, will need to minimise their water use -

Gardens are important to the appearance of the city and the health of the populace, but emphasis will have to be placed on gardens with low water requirements -

Visitors, official or tourist, automatically pose a water problem. At the very least they occasion more washing as bed linen, towels etc. have to be washed after only one night or a couple of nights -

The water situation must be explained in hotel and motel information for visitors.

All hotels etc must install dual flush toilets and low-flow shower heads. Laundry facilities must be as water and energy efficient as possible.

All buildings should catch rainwater that could be used for non-potable purposes inside the building and be recycled for watering gardens.

Submission from (Mrs) Jennifer Wanless