

## This is so wrong

*On face value, desalination seems a sensible solution to Victoria's "water crisis".  
However expert opinion almost invariably differs.  
Continuing ignorance of our environment is a short sighted path to disaster for society.*

### Why?

- 1. Desalination contributes to global warming.** Desalination has a massive continuous energy requirement, contributing greatly to global warming. Ironically global warming is thought to be the prime cause of dwindling water supplies, which is perpetuated by desalination. The claimed use of "green energy" to run desalination plants is misleading. If it weren't for desalination plants, that "green energy" could (and should) be used to reduce current greenhouse emissions.
- 2. Desalination wastes water.** Desalination provides extra water, but will promote further water wastage (our government even advertises the lifting of water restrictions in Melbourne as one benefit!), rather than encouraging water savings. Thus it is self defeating.
- 3. Desalination produces truckloads of waste every day.** Desalination produces truckloads of dry waste (salts, chemicals and organic sludge) daily that must be disposed of in landfill.
- 4. Desalination pollutes our ocean.** Desalination produces huge volumes of waste every day (brine, chemicals and dead aquatic life) to be discharged back into our ocean. This has detrimental impacts of unknown severity on marine communities. Nearby communities here include the Bunurong Marine Park and Coastal Reserve.
- 5. Desalination reduces aquatic life.** Desalination kills tonnes of aquatic planktonic life and other organisms which are taken in with the water to be treated, depleting life throughout the food chain over a wide area.
- 6. Desalination plants are big, ugly and noisy industrial sites.** Locating one on this coast contravenes this government's Coastal Strategy for preventing the spread of urban development along the coast. It also contravenes our Bass Coast Shire's planning guidelines.

### Issues specific to a desalination plant at Williamsons Beach;

- 1. It will be a huge industrial site** up to 5 stories high, on current farming land where land owners will be forced to sell.
- 2. Desalination plants are noisy,** 24 hours a day. It will be heard for many kilometers depending on climatic conditions at the time.
- 3. It will be lit up through the night.**
- 4. This plant would be highly visible** to all in the district, dominating an otherwise magnificent and unique rural coastal view from Anderson, through Kilcunda and Dalyston towards Wonthaggi, and the hills above.
- 5. The associated power supply** will be likely via new large steel pylons stretching across the Strzelecki Ranges from Morwell, directly impacting on farming communities along the route. Only a small final section may be underground. Pipelines with pumping stations will be a similar impediment for rural communities.
- 6. Local fishing grounds** and the adjacent **Bunurong Marine Park & Coastal Reserve** will be jeopardised due to water currents dispersing the effluent.
- 7. Industrialising this area will open it to further development,** including nuclear power (which is now being seriously considered by the federal government; Wonthaggi has been mentioned as a potential site), because a precedent of heavy industry is set and infrastructure is present.
- 8. There will be very few local jobs** for locals in this development. There will be a corresponding drop in tourist / visitor numbers thus supporting less real local jobs. Efforts for job creation should be redirected into continuing to build tourism based on our very unique environment.

### What should we demand before desalination is considered?

- 1. Save more water** via continued water restrictions including stronger demands on industry which uses the majority of our water and by being tougher with water restrictions in Melbourne to match ours.
- 2. Water tanks.** Legislating all homes, government and public buildings to have significant water tank capacity for rain-water collection and aiding this via government subsidy. This will be cheaper to the consumer in the long term than paying for the higher price of desalinated water. Theoretically, collecting water from 1.5 million average Melbourne house roofs would supply the same water as the proposed Victorian desalination plant.
- 3. Storm water collection** locally and regionally. ie. get it BEFORE it enters the ocean, not after as with desalination.
- 4. Water recycling** locally (home waste treatment plants) and regionally.

Sound scientific opinion and major environmental organisations strongly advocate the above four points.

Unlike desalination, the above 4 point approach is sound economically.

*So, why are our council and state government contributing to such broad scale environmental degradation while ignoring or not seeking expert opinion? They perhaps follow this knee jerk reaction as a vote winner and assume the public will not find the facts.*

If water shortage persists after the above measures have been taken, then desalination must of course be considered, but only as a supplementary measure for backup water supplies rather than the major source.

*For further information or questions please contact us via our website;*

**[www.yourwateryoursay.com](http://www.yourwateryoursay.com)**

Developed by: Your Water Your Say  
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**What you can do now;** lobby our councillors, write to Mr Bracks and Mr Thwaites, visit our website and volunteer your assistance! We need a big community effort and your assistance is needed. Thank You.

***Your Water Your Say - Say No to Desalination***