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Radio Broadcast - Water

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RADIO TALK FOR 5-K.A.

BY DON DUNSTAN

SUBJECT: WATER

BROADCAST 25/3/70

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GOOD EVENING: SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS THE DRIEST PART OF THE DRIEST CONTINENT AND IF WE ARE TO GET ANY SATISFACTORY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WE HAVE TO PLAN OUR WATER RESOURCES A LONG WAY AHEAD. WE WILL HAVE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE WATER FOR INDUSTRIAL, DOMESTIC AND PRIMARY PRODUCTION USE, WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. IF WE ARE TO GO IN FOR THE NEWER METHODS OF WATER CONSERVATION AND PROVISION THEN LONG TERM PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL TO US.

WHEN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS IN POWER WE DETERMINED THAT WE WOULD GET A COMPLETE FORWARD PLAN FOR WATER DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. THE ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPT. IS QUITE COMPETENT TO DO THE PLANNING FOR NORMAL CONVENTIONAL STORAGES OF WATER IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BUT WE ARE GETTING TOWARDS THE LIMIT OF THE USE OF THESE FORESEEABLY. WE ARE NOW DEPENDING NEARLY 85 PER CENT ON THE RIVER MURRAY FOR OUR WATER PROVISION AND WHILE ADDITIONAL STORAGES ON THE RIVER MURRAY MAY PROVIDE US WITH SOME ADDITIONAL CAPACITY NEVERTHELESS WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TURN TO OTHER SOURCES OF WATER IF WE ARE SATISFACTORILY TO EXPAND.

WHAT SORT OF RESOURCES DID WE HAVE TO LOOK TO? IN THE SOUTH EAST OF THIS STATE THERE IS A VAST AMOUNT OF GROUND WATER, VERY RICH RESOURCES OF GROUND WATER, BUT THE NATURE, EXTENT AND MOVEMENT OF THEM IS NOT ADEQUATELY KNOWN. WHILE OF COURSE WE WILL NEED TO USE THAT GROUND WATER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION OF THE STATE IT IS ALSO NECESSARY FOR US TO KNOW WHAT IS THERE IN ORDER TO PLAN HOW WE ARE TO USE IT OTHERWISE WE MAY WRECK THE SUPPLY BY WHAT WE DO. SECONDLY WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ADEQUATE MEANS OF REUSING WATER IN THE METROPOLITAN AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL AREAS. WE POUR ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF WATER OUT AND WE NEED TO CONSERVE THIS AND REUSE IT AS IS BEING DONE IN NUMBERS OF LARGE CITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. IN ADDITION WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO TO TIE DESALINATION PROJECTS INTO OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA SO THAT

WE ARE ABLE TO DESALINATE SEA WATER IN A REASONABLE COST FRAMEWORK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. WHAT IS MORE WE NEED TO KNOW HOW WE CAN CONSERVE THE VERY LARGE RUN OFFS OF WATER WHICH OCCUR IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE STATE, THE ARID PARTS OF THE STATE, FROM TIME TO TIME, AND WHICH NOW ENTIRELY RUN TO WASTE.

THE MEANS OF CARRYING OUT THESE INVESTIGATIONS IS NOT READILY TO HAND IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WE DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY RESEARCH CAPACITY HERE TO DO WORK OF THIS KIND. IT IS SO SPECIALISED AND SO EXPENSIVE THAT WE NEED TO CALL IN PEOPLE FROM OVERSEAS WITH ADEQUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS PARTICULAR JOB FOR US IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND SO WE SET UP A COMMITTEE WHILE WE WERE IN GOVERNMENT CONSISTING OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF AND THE DIRECTOR OF MINES TO LOOK AT TENDERS WHICH WE CALLED FROM ROUND THE WORLD FROM MAJOR WATER CONSULTANTS TO DO THE WORK NECESSARY TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA ON WHAT ITS WATER FUTURE SHOULD BE. WHEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE THEY DISBANDED THAT COMMITTEE, THEN THEY RECONSTITUTED IT, BUT IT WAS NOT GIVEN ANY WORK TO DO BECAUSE THEY CHANGED THEIR MINDS. THEY DECIDED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE SOME KIND OF INVESTIGATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA BUT THAT THEY WOULD ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, SOME OF THEM OF COURSE WITH QUALIFICATIONS IN ENGINEERING AND GEOLOGY, TO LOOK AT THE WATER RESOURCES SITUATION WITHIN THE STATE. THE DIFFICULTY OF THAT PROGRAMME IS THAT THERE IS NOT THE RESEARCH CAPACITY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO DO THE WORK WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS WERE TO DO SO THAT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE CANNOT HAVE THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO IT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE AREA WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS WHOM WE SOUGHT TO CALL IN. THE RESULT IS THAT WATER RESOURCES INVESTIGATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN SET BACK A NUMBER OF YEARS BY THE DECISION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO GIVE UP ADEQUATE PLANNING ACTIVITY IN

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THIS AREA. IT IS VITAL THAT WE GET ON WITH THE JOB AND
UNFORTUNATELY THIS GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO DO IT.

GOOD NIGHT.