14/03/08

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Submission Sustainable Water Strategy

Water security should hold the most important priority, above other issues such as sport and recreation.
I have recently attended surface water and groundwater management within Goulburn Murray Water. As deputy chairman of King River Service Committee also a representative of Murray Water Service Committee. It has reinforced my long held views, as the relationship between surface water and ground water.
There has been no mention in this discussion paper and governments do not want to talk about it, whatever we put in the ground it will find it's way into the rivers-contamination of ground water.
I would recommend
1 .All towns in the Ovens and King catchments should be correctly sewered, better than we are doing with our towns such as Wangaratta, Myrtleford. The sewerage has to pumped some distance away (5-10km) and is utilized by crops or trees.
2. The E.P.A. should be made to have, sample bores put down on all old tips, which in some cases are located very close to rivers and creeks and on river gravel seams.
3. There should be a ban on harmful household detergents and toiletries.
4. On the cost of household water, a normal usage of household water should be at a normal cost, wasteful over use should bare a lot greater cost.
5. Towns and cities that are situated where they are growing at a great rate, and they are running out of water such as Melbourne ,Ballarat . All new subdivision and houses should have the provision, which I have in my own home, of using good quality water in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry but toilets and outside garden water should be plumbed so they can reuse storm water and low grade quality water.
6.More education in primary schools on water usage and wastage.
7.When there are water restrictions on residential housing the same enforcement should apply to people with bores because they are accessing the same water.

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The sustainable water strategy identifies a long held view of mine, that in the Ovens and King catchments 98% of the water from this area flows out. We should have the capability to store more water. We have huge reliable catchments with high rainfall and we have relative minuet dams. The Buffalo dam which holds 24000ML total. With 5000ML dead water or equivalent to 2 days flow approx that was being released from Dartmouth Dam '06 '07.
I propose that another dam to be built above the existing dam, just below the Rose River junction of the Buffalo. It still would capture West and East Buffalo. The Catherine River, Rose River and the Dandongadale River. The catchments are so large and go back to the divide between the Gippsland and us.
We can have huge rain event like 1993 which caused millions of dollars worth of damages .The top 1/3 rd of full capacity would capture degree of rainfall event of this nature and would be used for regulated flood or flushing, but must be drawn back down again to the 2/3r level. Probably over a 12 month period. The capacity at 2/3rd level, I estimate it would hold 300,000ML.Once filled to this level, over time (it would be kept as a water bank) and only to be released for the benefit of extreme drought.

When other storages are at low level, for emergency such as human consumption, industries, stock and domestic and flushing of the Ovens and The Murray River to Adelaide.

The river flow would be allowed to flow at this level and also generating power all the time.

In Summary: Advantages

1. Hold the amount of water for extreme droughts.
2. Deep storage, less evaporation.
3. High quality water.
4. Minimal contamination from human activity.
5. Generating power.
6. To mitigate the most extreme floods.
7. State Government owns all the land the water would cover.
8. Give flexibility of environmental flushing of the Ovens and Murray Rivers.
9. Recreational fishing and water sports.
10. Very safe design.
11. An example of my foresight in water conservation and importance of the security of water, was Sept '06, I stressed to Goulburn Murray Water, that we had an extremely dry winter and if it didn't rain we would be in extreme drought. In Nov'06 in the Goulburn Murray Water service meeting requested that we should be keeping water back in Dartmouth, as a percentage of this water believe was captured in 1993. "Confirmation of minutes provided'.

Regards Malcolm Carson

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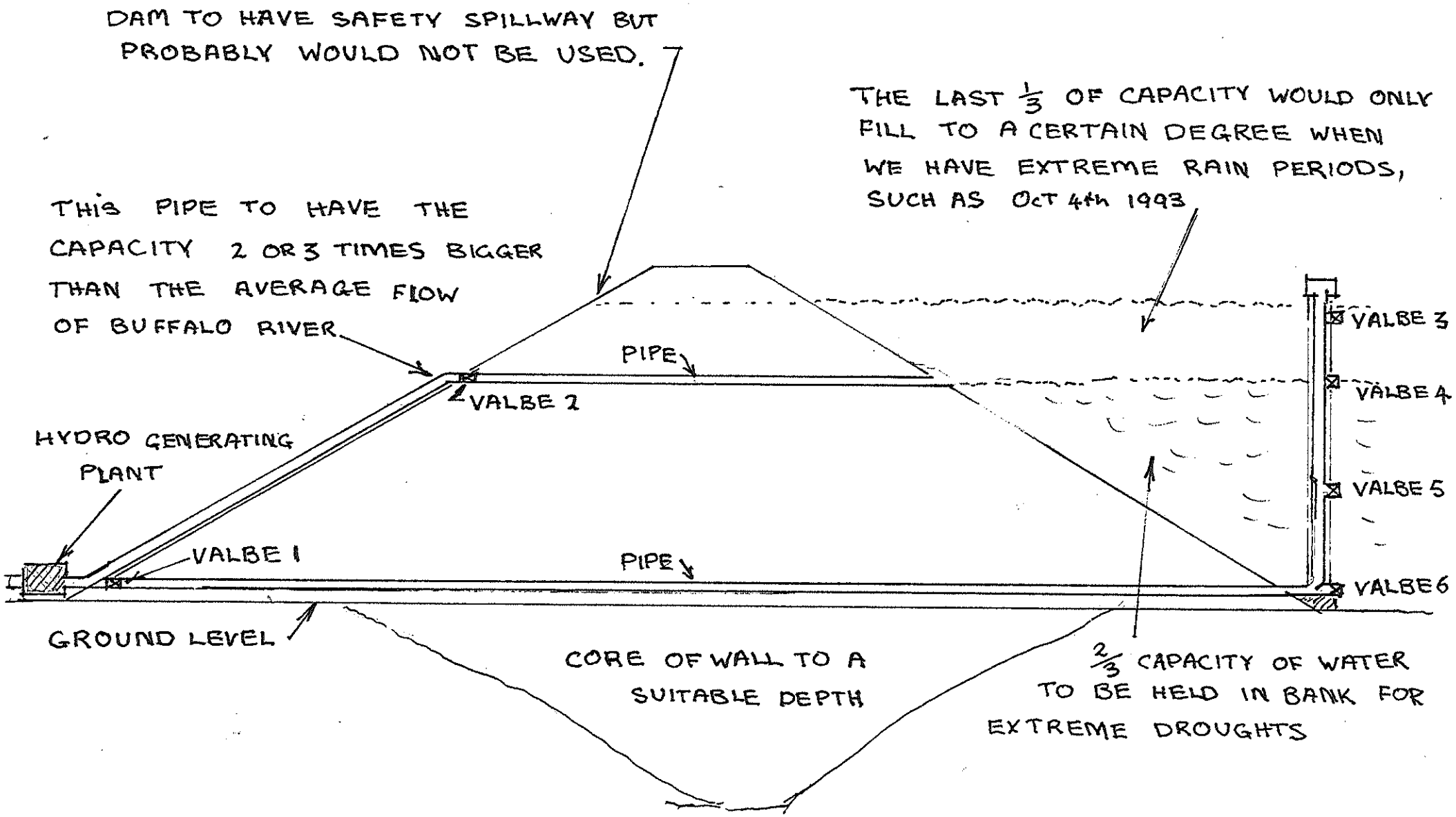
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
   2.1. Malcolm Carson requested an amendment be made to his report in the previous minutes. It should have included 'At the start of the season there was 65% in Lake Dartmouth and we should be keeping 20%-30% in this catchment and not giving the Murray diverters their 95% allocation. We should be keeping a reserve of water in Lake Dartmouth in case we do not receive good winter rain fall.'

Resolution 2.1.1
It was resolved that the minutes from Murray System Water Services Committee Meeting 7-06 (#2071437) including the requested amendment be accepted as true and correct.
Moved: Malcolm Carson Seconded: Peter Antonello Carried



MALCOLM CARSON PROPOSED DESIGN OF A DAM. DATE 20·2·08.