The CSIRO Report* released on 13 May 2008 regarding "Water Availability in the Campaspe" is MISLEADING

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* *Water Availability in the Campaspe : A Report to Government from the CSIRO Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Yields Project*

http://www.csiro.au/org/CampaspeOverviewMDBSY.html#1

CSIRO

The CSIRO report on "Water Availability in the Campaspe" released on 13 May 2008 does not incorporate the most recent rainfall statistics. It also does not address the impact of the State Government's North-South pipeline and Goldfields "Superpipe".

Although the CSIRO report was completed recently, the information in this report does not use the inflow records from the season 2006-2007. That means the lowest inflows on record are not included. The report also does not take into account the large amounts of water that are planned to be exported to Bendigo, Ballarat and Melbourne.

The CSIRO report puts scenarios forward that, suggests that over the next 20 years we will lose between 4% and 54% of our previously available water supplies. Our loss has been much greater than this already !!

A continuation of our current situation as listed below is more likely.

1. The long-term average runoff in the Campaspe area used to be 66mm per year.
   The last 16 years have only averaged 20mm runoff.
   During the last 7 years we have seen only 6mm average runoff - that equals **90% loss**.
2. All the latest information about climate change points to this declining trend continuing, not reversing. This would indicate that this survey is:-
   a) Out of date.
   b) Very conservative and politically distorted.
   c) Most likely wrong.
   d) Not taking into account the loss of useable water in the Campaspe area due to the exporting of water to Melbourne, Bendigo and Ballarat, a very sizable amount.
3. The most likely scenario is a worsening of the present situation which indicates at least 70% loss of available water, maybe as high as 90% loss, as we have observed over the last 7 years.
4. The big La Nina, rainfall years, and the decadal averages have declined over 40 years.

La Nina years

(Bendigo rainfall)

1973	1017 mm
1978	659 mm
1983	698 mm
1988	710 mm
1992	772 mm
1996	672 mm
2000	542 mm
2003	570 mm
2007	452 mm

Decadal Averages

(Bendigo rainfall)

1970 – 1979	627 mm
1980 – 1989	574 mm
1990 – 1999	536 mm
2000 – 2007	427 mm

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The next La Nina year is not due until 2011, it will most likely deliver less than 600mm of light misty rain.

So far this year only about 70mm of rain has fallen in most of central Victoria. This is close to the driest first 4 ½ months of any year on record. This year is an intermediate year (of the La Nina/ El Niño cycle), usually 350mm to 400mm rain would fall. Next year El Niño is due to redevelop, 206mm to 350mm is the typical average rain in an El Niño year.

Current sea surface temperature records indicate to me that well below average rain conditions will most likely continue from here on through to next summer.

Please read my current quarterly forecast for Winter 2008

together with the other supporting documents on weather trends and water resources

that are available from my website: www.TheLongView.com.au

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