

Out of the Blue

The Bass Coast Desal Doco

Nothing reveals the inner workings of our society more dramatically than conflicts over water,' says visiting global water activist Maude Barlow. 'As it becomes scarce' she says 'water should not become a commodity sold for profit.'

Two years ago these sentiments would have been of passing interest around Melbourne. Events since June 2007 however, have thrust Melbourne and its rural neighbours onto the global water stage where desalination is now a \$100 billion industry.

Four years ago the future of seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) technology looked bleak. The Middle East still preferred Flash technology and the rest of the world found SWRO too expensive and too polluting. Then the drought struck Australian cities. Global water companies found it easy to establish desalination here, where environmental protection laws can prove ineffective, and politicians prosper on the promise to drought proof this arid land.



Maude and her partner check out changes to the water landscape in Melbourne 2008. What did she see? All is revealed in 'Out of the Blue'.



Does the water minister accept flowers from his adversaries? Find out when you see 'Out of the Blue'.

In January 2009 the state environment minister announced that, the Bass Coast desalination plant would impact on the environment. 'However' he said, 'we will put in place rigorous controls and manage the impact'. But nobody anywhere has proved this possible with smaller projects, let alone the largest SWRO plant ever built.

Some say the Victorian government wants to be seen to be doing something about city water shortages. Others say it's panicked and grasped the nearest quick fix available. But is there more to its plans than it has told the Victorian people to date?

Out of the Blue is the first independent film to attempt to make sense of the desal proposal. It documents the reasons for the desal decision, the arguments put by the community and others about SWRO technology, the Bass Coast community's public campaign to stop the plant, and the process and implications of the EES.

Maude Barlow is one of several dozen people to air her concerns about the plant. Bob Brown, Greg Barber, Professor Patrick Troy and a cast of Bass Coast activists join her to make this a film you can't afford to miss. Premier's at the Wonthaggi Cinema on Australia day (Jan. 26) , 12:30 for a 12:45 start. Duration 30 mins. Admission by can of pet food in aid of the Paws Galore Trust Wonthaggi. Or order you own copy on DVD:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email address: _____

Please enclose cheque payable to Educational Television: DVD: \$20 + P&H \$7.50 = \$27.50

Send order to Educational Television PO Box 440 Warrandyte 3113 OR Fax to (03) 9844 3443