



What's on

Friday, January 22, 7-10pm

Rod Quantock, Wonthaggi Town Hall, A Watershed fund-raiser. Tickets \$15, available Maxines, 104 Graham St. Wonthaggi, or Ph 0413 902 571.

Tuesday, 26 January, 7pm

Watershed committee meeting, Picassos.

February 19-21

Sustainable Living Festival, Federation Square, Watershed stall.

www.watershedvictoria.org.au/events

Victoria still needs you

Watershed Victoria needs you to renew your membership for 2009-2010.

Due to the great success of 'The Gift' art show and auction more than a year ago, Watershed has been able to fund activities up until now.

Watershed will continue to oppose the desalination plant but we need your financial support to keep our campaign in the public eye and to maintain pressure on the big players in this project.

As well as continuing to oppose the desalination plant – because there are sustainable alternatives that would do the job better – we will also do our best to “keep the bastards honest”.

That is, while they proceed with this monstrous plant, we will continue to monitor their actions and to lobby to minimise the damage to our environment and the Bass Coast community.

See membership details on page 2.



They're watching you

*By Stephen Cannon
Watershed president*

In early December, Watershed Victoria members were astounded and outraged to learn that the Brumby Government had released secret police files on anti-desalination protesters to Aquasure, the international consortium managing the project.

The protests against the plant by community groups Your Water Your Say and Watershed Victoria have been peaceful demonstrations by well-informed citizens concerned about an environmentally damaging project.

There has been no violence, no damage to property and, in practical terms, no disruption to the project.

Protesters have merely sought engineering, science and environmental answers to compare the government's post election water policy with their very own re-election promises of recycling and conservation and their earlier scathing denouncement of desalination.

The Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the Brumby Government, as reported by Paul Austin in *The Age* on December 5, is wide reaching and includes passing over police “data related to individuals” to Aquasure.

This is a clear breach of civil liberties. Individuals concerned do not have access to police information about themselves.

It raises issues of incorrect and possibly slanderous information being spread, information injurious to reputations and job prospects for citizens.

Desperate measures like this are further

‘This seems to be a part of the Government's heavy-handed response to relatively low-level protest activity which is a part of the democratic process in relation to a project of enormous public significance.’

*Liberty Victoria president
Michael Pearce, SC*

evidence that this Government does not have a valid business case to spend \$5 billion of Victorians' money on an inferior option, a lazy government rushing to cover up its own inaction after a decade of drought.

The Government is prepared to disclose secret files on concerned individuals speaking up in order to discourage scrutiny of its actions.

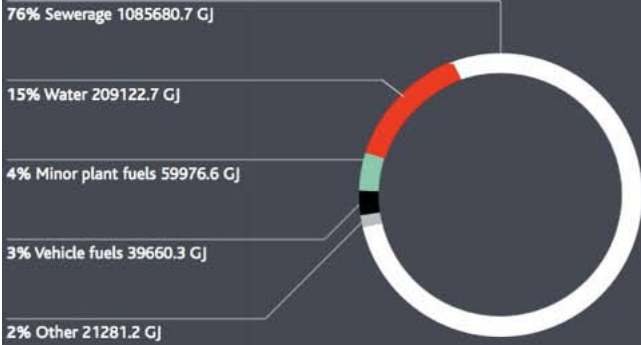
If you dare to question the Brumby Government, dare to seek justification for their multi-billion dollar extravagances, if you exercise your democratic right to “speak up”, you will suffer.

Watershed Victoria has written to Privacy Commissioner Helen Versey to complain about this gross invasion of citizens' privacy.

We have also written to Premier John Brumby, Ministers Holding and Cameron and Chief Commissioner Simon Overland.



All Melbourne Water energy use currently



Additional energy usage with desalination



2.6 times all current Melbourne Water energy usage

18 times the energy currently used by M.W. to source water

The image above gives a breakdown of current energy usage in all aspects of Melbourne Water's activities. The energy usage of the desalination plant means we will be using at least three and a half times as much energy once Melbourne Water starts sourcing water from the desalination plant.

That doesn't figure, Premier!

By Neil Rankine

Victorian Premier John Brumby has described rainwater tanks as a "problematic" water source for Victoria. On many occasions, he's claimed they would use more electricity to get water to our taps than a desalination plant would.

A recent study done jointly by Professor Stuart White, of the University of Technology Sydney, and the CSIRO, shows he's got it very wrong.

The study showed rainwater tanks use about 1.5 kilowatt-hours of electricity per kilolitre of water supplied to the taps in the house.

Desalination plants on the other hand typically use nearly three times this amount – 4.5 kilowatt-hours – just to desalinate the water.

In the case of Victoria's plant on the Bass

Coast, another two thirds of this again will be used to pump the water nearly 100 kilometres to Melbourne's Cardinia reservoir – bringing the total up to almost 7.5 kilowatt-hours.

More will be used as the water moves through the Melbourne distribution system on its way to our taps.

So that's three to four times more energy to get the same amount of water to our taps from Victoria's proposed desalination plant than from home rainwater tanks.

The report says better pump designs could reduce rainwater tank energy use still further.

A State Government-commissioned study has also shown that rainwater tanks in new houses and apartment blocks could save the government more than \$600 million by their ability to manage stormwater and pollution runoff.

They said it

This government is hostile to community groups that disagree with it and has publicly abused and denigrated them, in particular the community groups protesting against the desalination plant and the north-south pipeline.

It has been hostile, abusive and derogatory to them, and now we know it has been conspiring against them with the police and with a private company, and that is why we are outraged about what has happened.

Greens MLA Sue Pennicuik speaks in the Victorian Upper House, December 19, 2009



watershedvictoria

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Ph: 0407 811778

Membership

Name

Email Phone Mobile

Address

Cost, \$15 individuals, \$30 households. Amount paid: Receipt required?

Please indicate if you would like to help in the campaign, eg. distribution, publicity, fund-raising, manning caravan

Give membership form and subscription to a committee member; OR

Post form plus cheque or postal order to Watershed Victoria, Dalyston PO, 3992; OR

Direct deposit to Bendigo Bank. Account name: Watershed Victoria. BSB: 633 000. Acc No: 134 991 850. Reference: Your name

Watershed Victoria

WATERSHED Victoria is a community group that seeks water-supply alternatives to the north-south pipeline and desalination plant. It replaces the Your Water Your Say community group, which was forced to cease operating last year.

Together with Plug the Pipe and the Clean Oceans Foundation, Watershed Victoria forms the Victorian Water Forum, which is campaigning for sustainable water solutions for Victoria.

Visit www.watershedvictoria.org.au

