



BRACE CENTRE FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SEMINAR

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT -- THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE



Professor John Pigram

John Pigram specialises in policy research in water resources planning and management and has over 30 years experience in the Australian water industry. Current research includes privatisation and corporatisation of water systems; adjustments to water institutions and water administration in Australia; irrigation agriculture and sustainability; climate change; policy issues arising from resource allocation; implementation of best practice; infrastructure refurbishment; and asset management. He is also actively involved in research in outdoor recreation, tourism and parks management. He was Executive Director of the Centre for Water Policy Research until February 2000 when he retired. Dr Pigram has published widely on water issues and has held visiting appointments at Universities in USA and Canada. He is the National Chairperson in Australia for the International Water Resources Association and maintains close contact with water industry organisations here and abroad. He is Vice President and President-Elect 2001-3, of the International Water Resources Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the World Water Council. He serves as representative from Australia on the Advisory Committee of the Rosenberg International Water Policy Forum and was also the chair of the Organising Committee for the Xth World Water Congress in Melbourne, 12-17th March, 2000.

Abstract

Australia is often referred to as the driest inhabited continent on earth. Rainfall and runoff are low and risk and uncertainty characterize the availability of water. Against this background it is easy to understand the long-standing commitment to the construction of water storages, and the wide-spread regulation and diversion of rivers to facilitate the use of water to meet demand. However, in recent times water quality and the health of river systems have become serious problems. Growing demands from agriculture, industry and a highly urbanised population, together with rising expectations about the quality of life and the environment, have intensified pressure on the nation's water resources. No longer can these demands be met merely by boosting supply. In most densely settled and developed regions, economic, environmental and physical infeasibility now precludes the building of more dams, and groundwater reserves are stressed in several areas. In these circumstances, emphasis has shifted rapidly from further development of Australia's water resources to better management of available supplies. Administrative restructuring, pricing reforms and cost recovery, water markets and trade, integrated water resources management, allocation of water to the environment, and emergence of the private sector are features of the re-orientation that is taking place in water policy and management. Australia is now moving towards a more economically sound, socially acceptable, and environmentally compatible approach to rational, efficient and sustainable management of the nation's water resources.

Thursday, October 19, 2006

Raymond Building R4-046/048, Macdonald Campus

13:15 to 14:30 hrs

EVERYONE WELCOME

