

# **Agritech**

## **Smartwater**





**Lies,**  
**Damned Lies,**  
**and**  
**Government**  
**Water Spin**

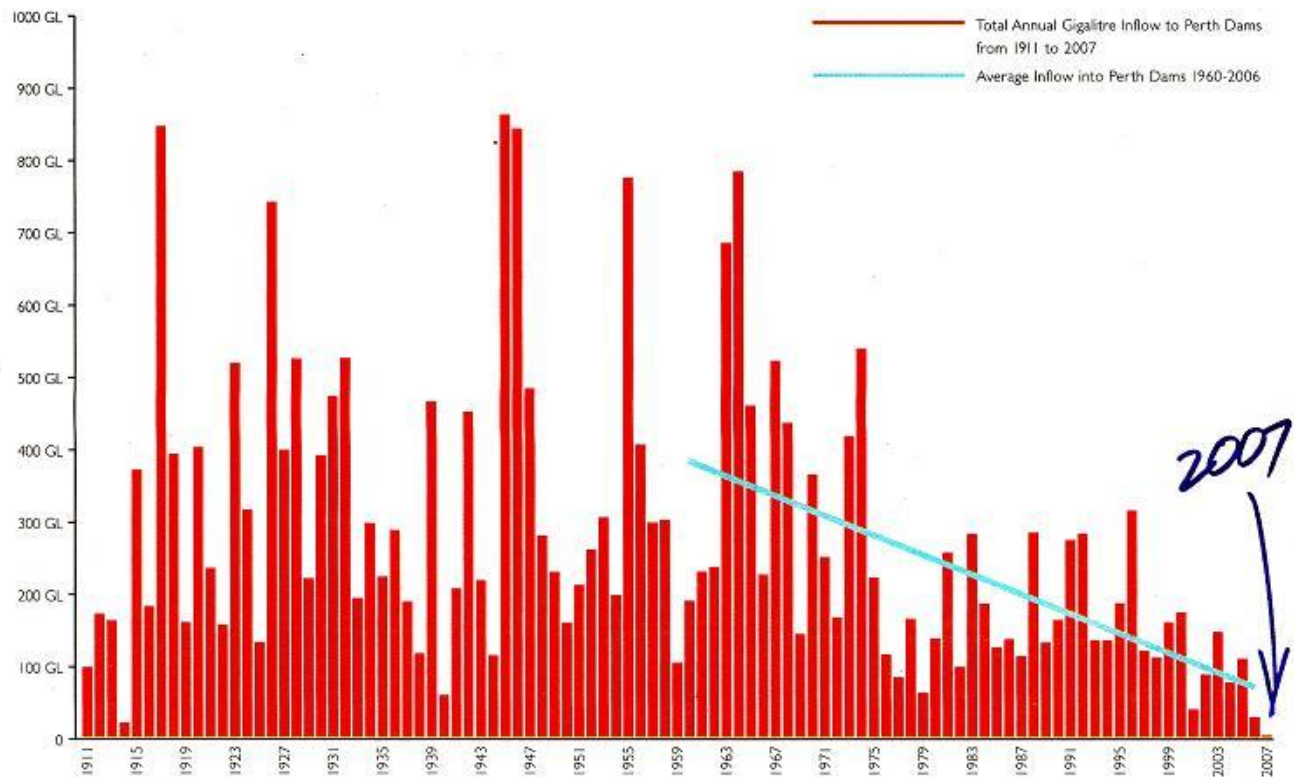
**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I do not think there is much to be gained by damming more rivers in the south west. I think the question tends to indicate that the Leader of the Opposition has not cottoned on to what is happening.

**It has stopped raining in the south west of Western Australia. The rain no longer falls from the sky in sufficient quantities to fill the dams to fill the pipes to fill the cups for people to drink. Something quite profound has happened in the south west of Western Australia. It has stopped raining to the extent that it used to rain when we got 90 per cent of our drinking water from the dams. There is not much point in building more dams if it does not rain. The only way we can fill them is to pump water into them from another source - groundwater or the desalination project.**

I think, and I might have misread the reaction, the overwhelming majority of people strongly support what we have done in announcing the desalination project. I think so; it is possible I have misread it but we will find out.

In relation to the Wellington Dam option, the Water Corporation will continue to have discussions and investigate with possible proponents. I hope the Leader of the Opposition is not pushing a private business venture here. Is he?





Why we can no longer rely on the rain.

Extract from Water Corporation Advertisement in The West Australian 7 July 2007



## Conservationists warn of dangers of desalination

Posted June 19, 2007 15:00:00

Jason Antenucci from the Centre for Water Research says desalination does affect the environment but the process could ultimately help end the reliance on dams.

"A few decades from now we may have a situation where the dams aren't productive anyway because it's not really raining very much and you could conceivably remove those dams and return the rivers to something like what they used to be which I think is a pretty amazing thing to think about," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/06/19/>



## **Carpenter Govt urged to legislate on dam safety**

Posted July 20, 2007 11:30:00

The Economic Safety Authority has called on the Western Australian Government to introduce legislation that would prevent the need for excessive spending on dam safety.

The Water Corporation says it has to spend \$335 million on upgrading WA dams because it has to abide by guidelines set by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD).

The corporation says this is because there is an absence of state-based dam safety regulations.

Regulation authority chairman Lyndon Rowe says the national guidelines are based on international standards, **that include coping with 1,500 mm of rain within 72 hours.**

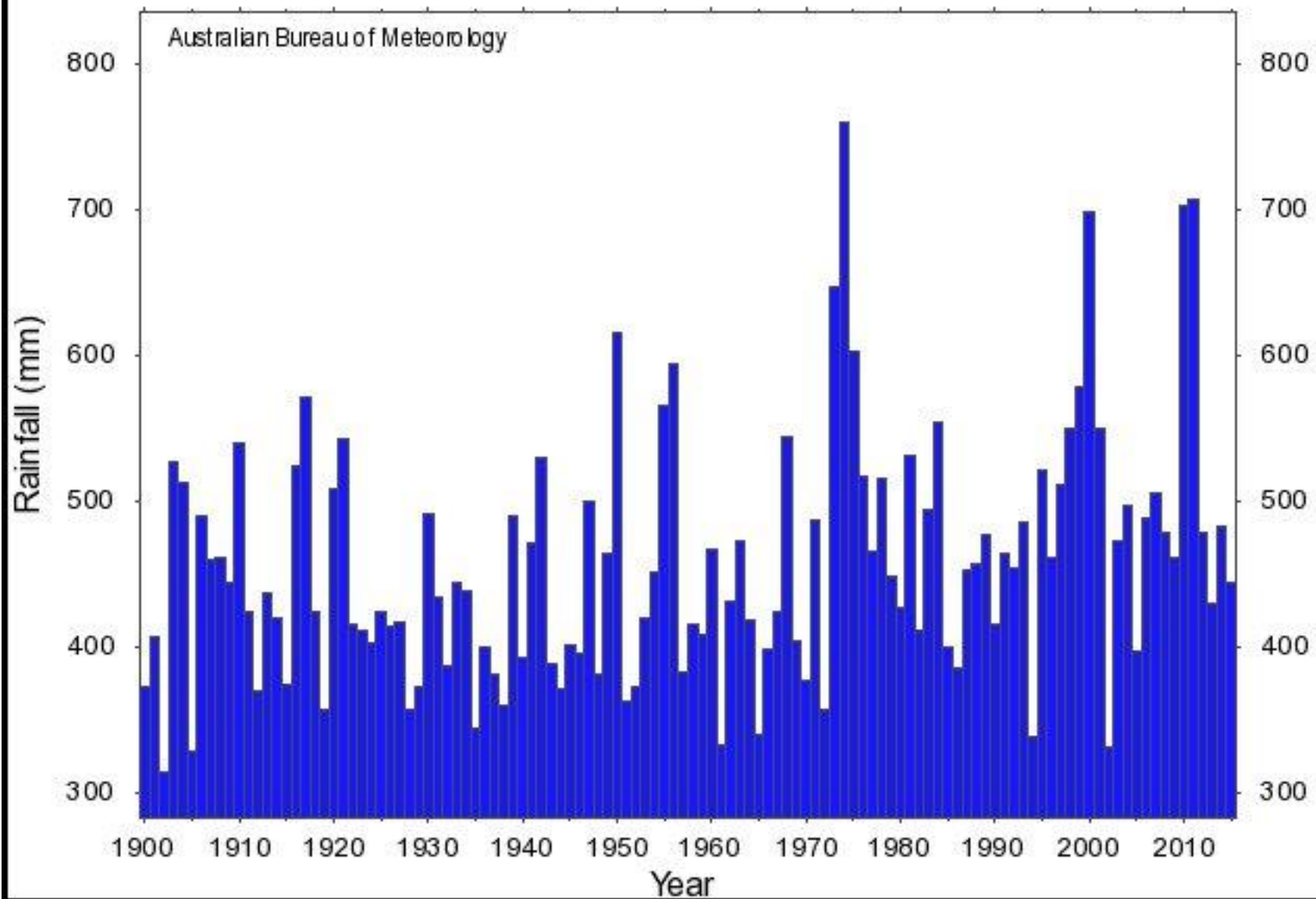
He says they need to be supplemented by state-based regulations.

"If you were to introduce legislation, and as I understand it this is what the Government's considering, to augment or supplement those ANCOLD guidelines, then there would be the capacity to save some of that money and obviously therefore it can be spent elsewhere," he said.

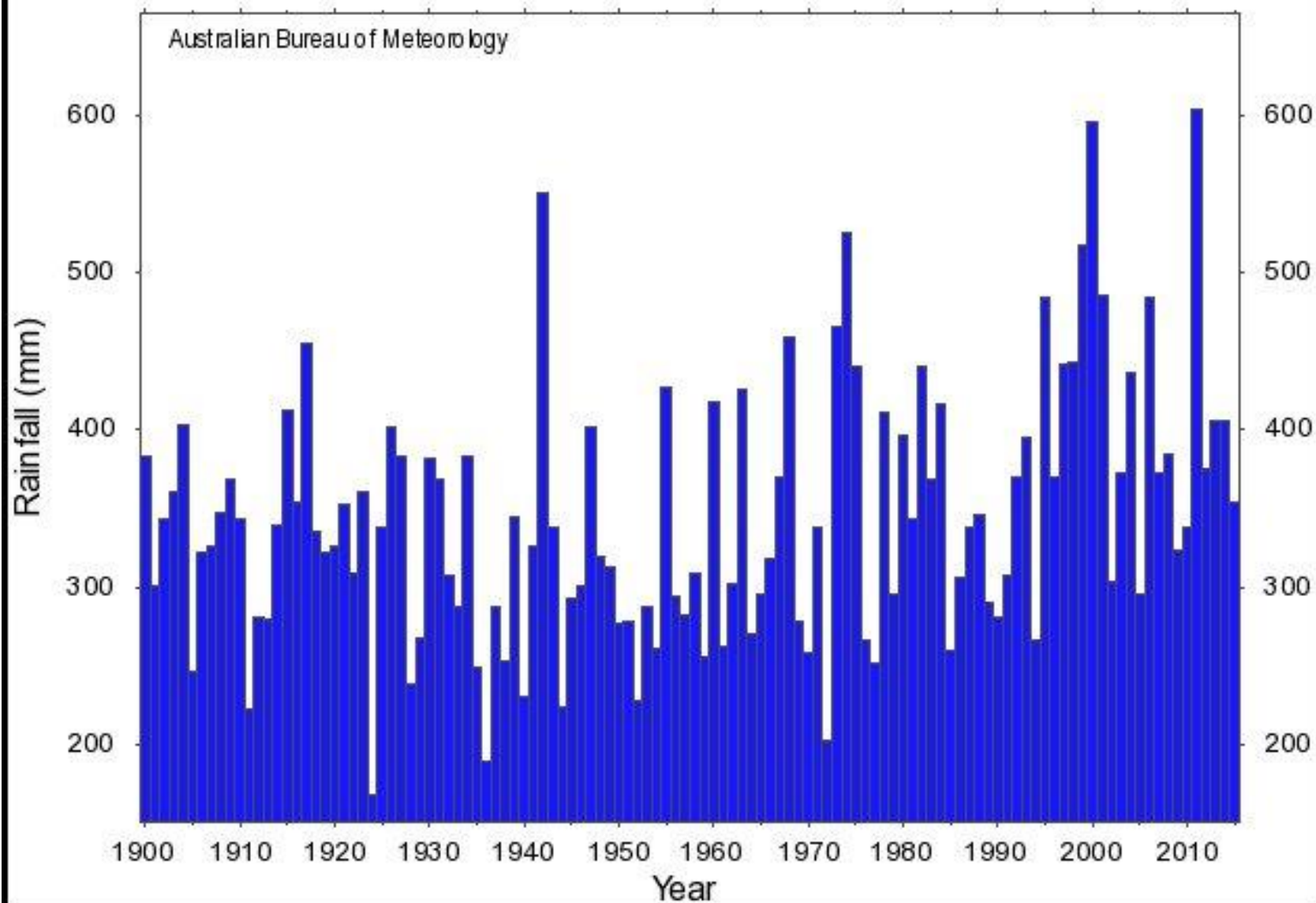
"By spending that money in other areas you would actually increase safety in the community."



## Annual rain fall - Australia (1900-2015)

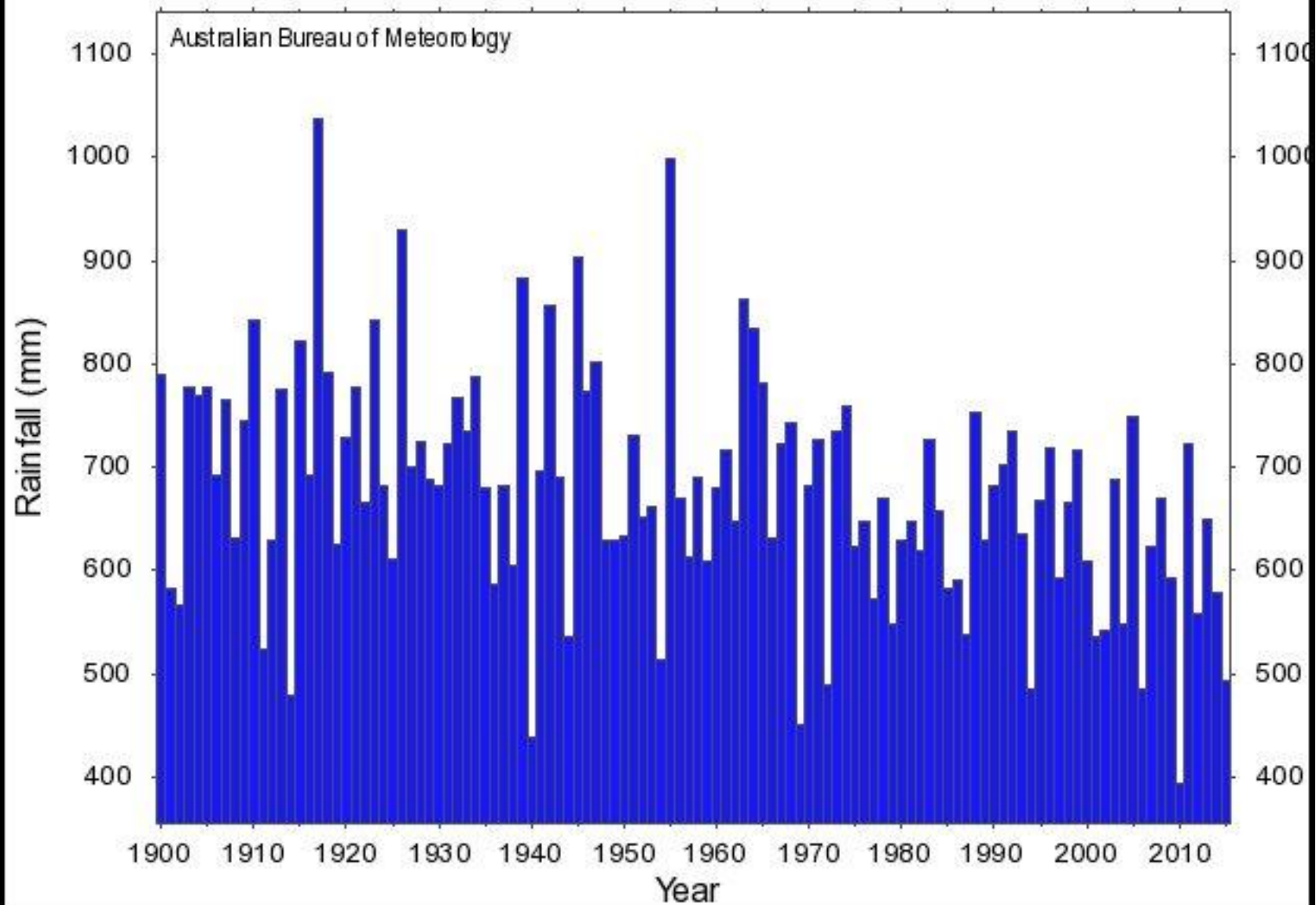


## Annual rainfall - Western Australia (1900-2015)





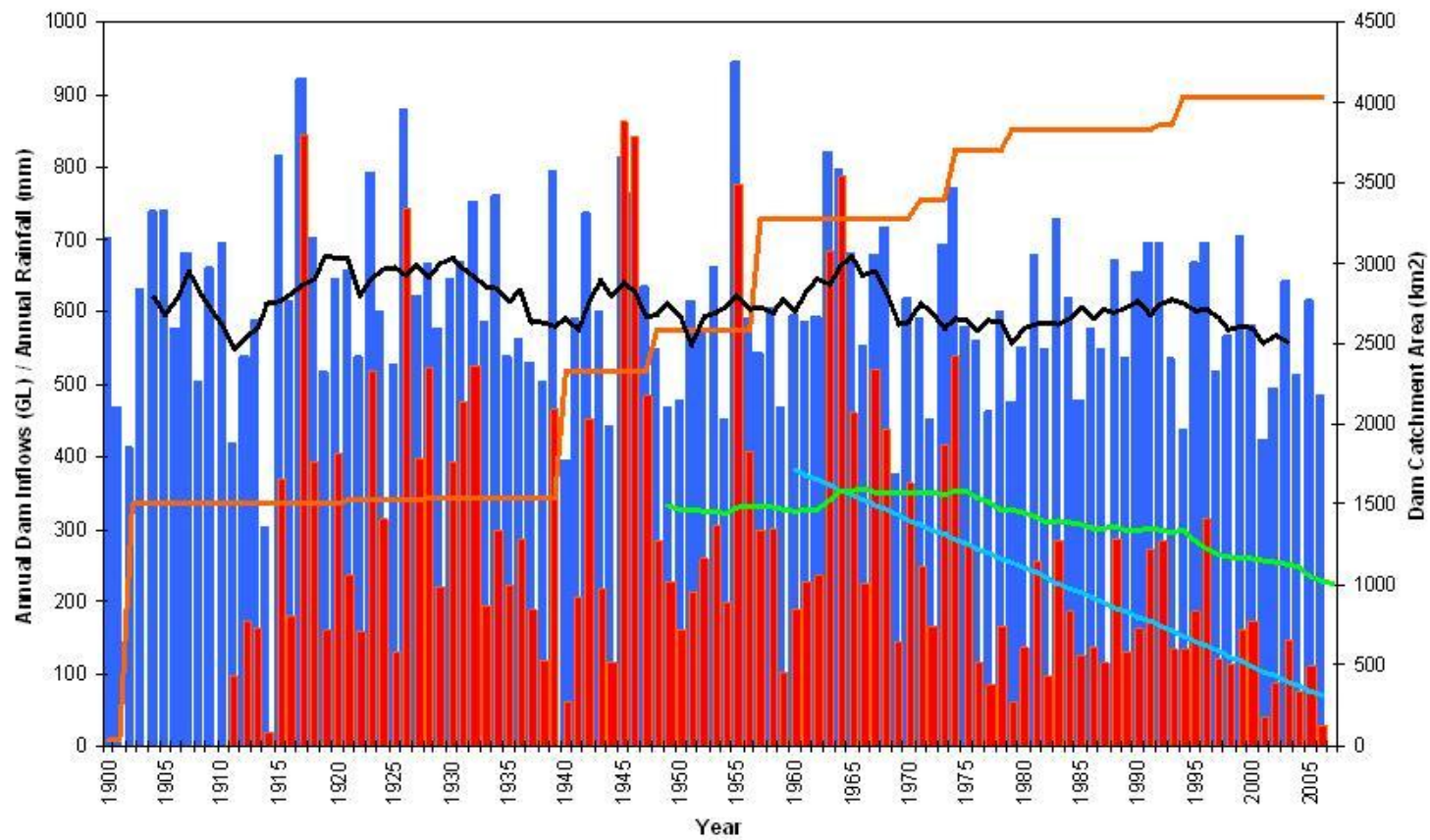
## Annual rainfall - Southwestern Australia (1900-2015)

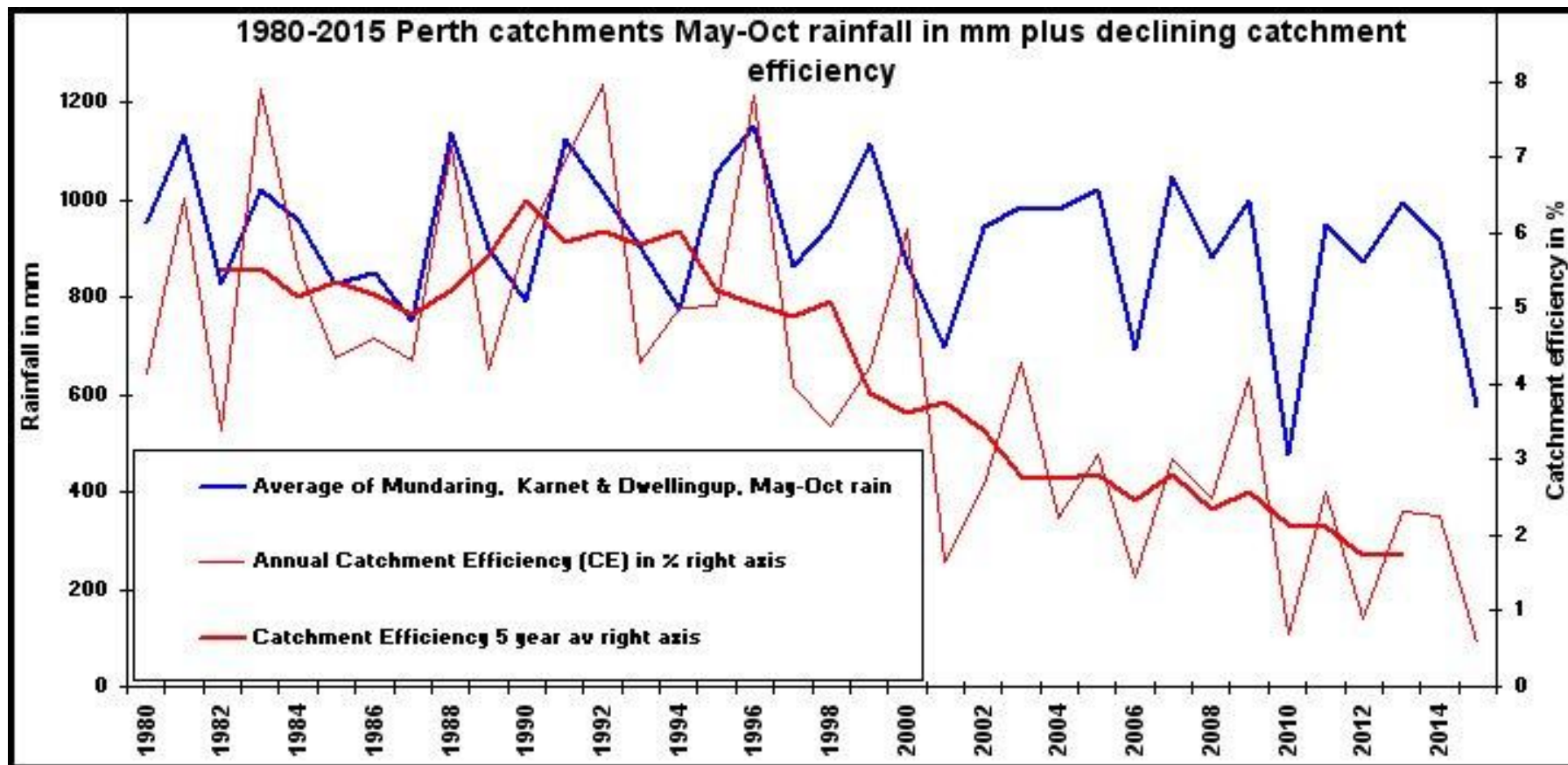


# Perth Dams

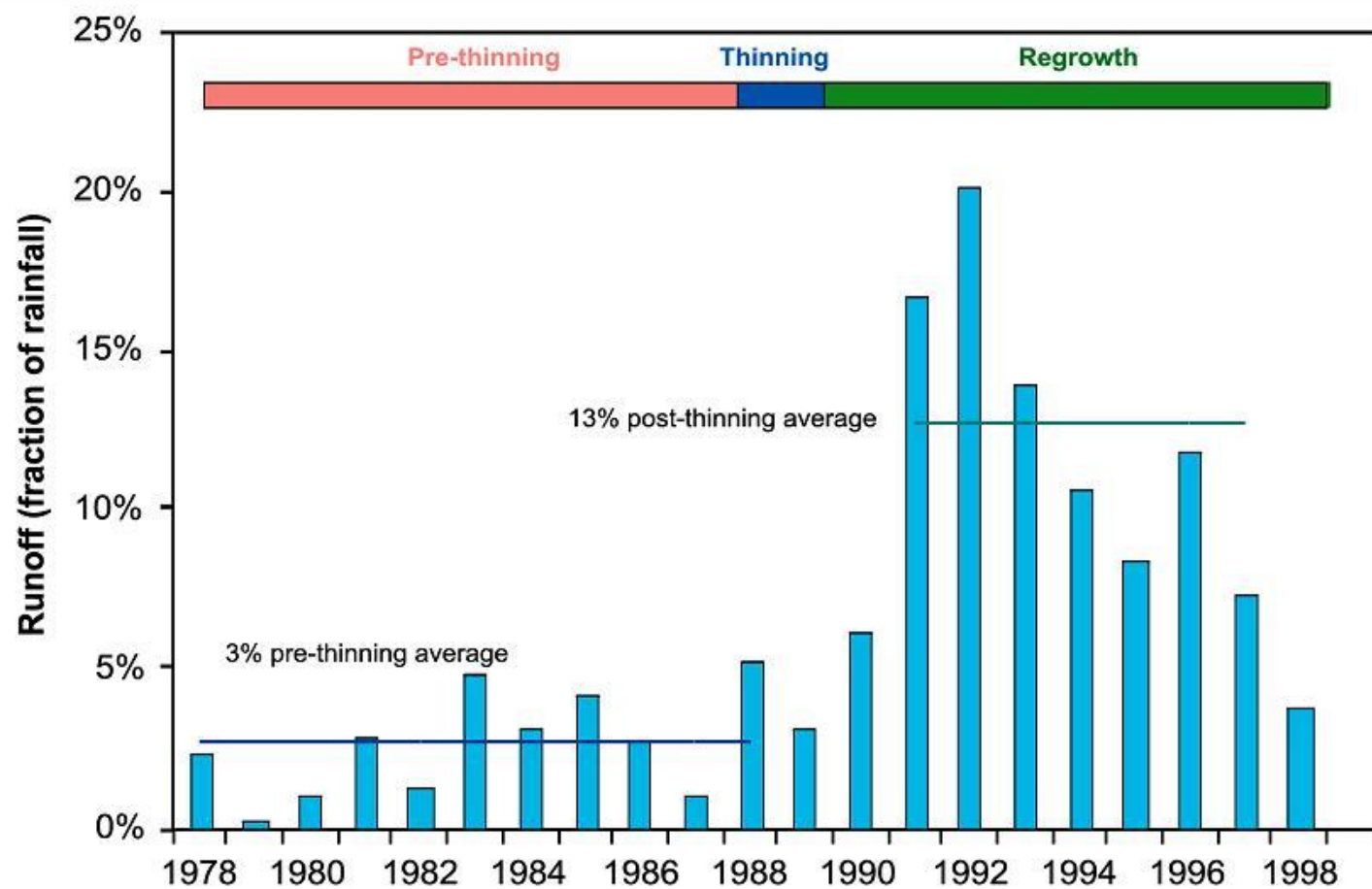
Perth Dams Catchment Annual Rainfall Timeseries  
 Perth Dams Catchment Area  
 WC Average Inflow to Perth Dams

WC Data Perth Dams Inflows  
 Catchment Rainfall 8 yr Average  
 50 yr Moving Average Trendline (WC Data Perth Dams Inflows)









**Figure 13** Increase in water yield by thinning from 37 to 15 m<sup>2</sup>/ha (Higgins Catchment north of Dwellingup with 1190 mm average rainfall during study)

Dam Storage	Current Storage	% of Total Storage Capacity
28 Aug 2007		
Wellington Dam	<b>148 GI</b>	<b>80.46%</b>
Total SW Dams	<b>278 GI</b>	<b>65.44%</b>
Total Metro Dams	<b>225 GI</b>	<b>36.25%</b>
Current Wellington Dam/Metro Storage		<b>66%</b>

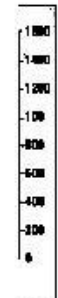
# Water bosses 'snubbed' plan Corporation sat on scheme to help ease dam crisis

**WATER** authorities have failed to act on key proposals that would have helped ease WA's water crisis.

...in the long-term management of WA's water resources to ensure the state's water security.

CALM regional services director Alan Walker said burning combined with thinning of vegetation had been shown to produce significant extra runoff into dams.

He said the department had suggested that the Water Corporation apply to make it official policy in CALM's imminent draft forest management plan.



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For seven years, the Water Corporation has sat on a government recommendation that it clear vegetation around water catchment areas, effectively halving the amount of water that has flowed into some of Perth's dams.

*The West Australian* understands that the corporation's lack of action is part of a scathing internal report which criticises the long-term management of WA's water supply.

Water Corporation planning and development general manager Garry Meinck conceded yesterday that the plan would have doubled the runoff in high rainfall areas.

This would have added up to 10 gegalitres of water to Perth's water supply for every 10,000ha of catchment vegetation that was thinned.

Run-off into Perth's dams dropped dramatically about 25 years ago, when burnoffs and thinning of vegetation was cut back after complaints about smog over Perth.

The drop had been blamed on rainfall, but Bureau of Meteorology figures show the drop in rainfall was nowhere near the dramatic reduction of inflow into dams.

CALM regional services director Alan Walker said burning combined with thinning of vegetation had been shown to produce significant extra runoff into dams.

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# Precious Water Wasted.

## Re-use Will Save \$1 billion +

Wellington Dam, one of the largest and safest dams in the State has gone saline. Years of neglect and inaction has rendered the water unfit for human consumption and very marginal as a source of irrigation water. Assist us in saving this most precious resource.

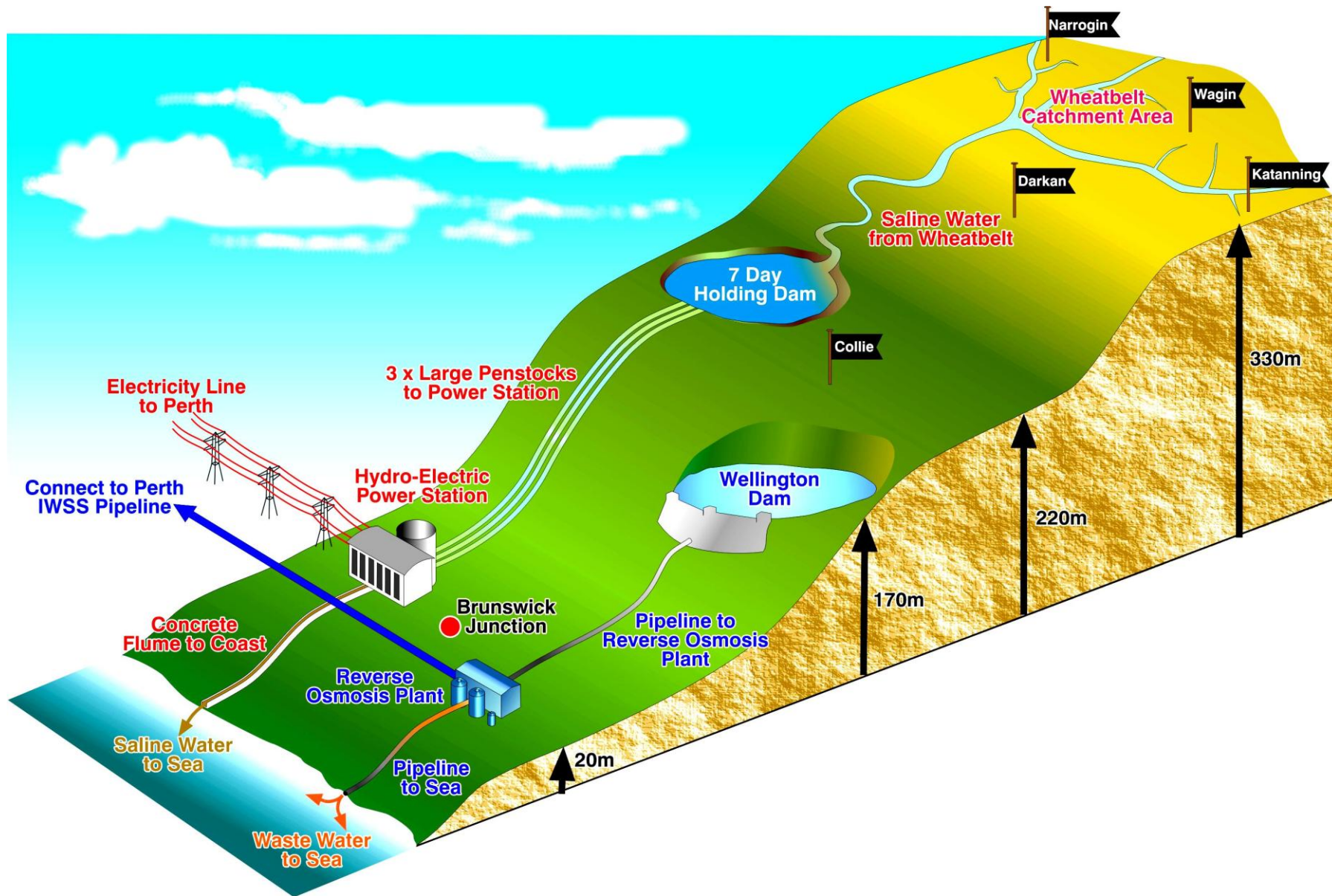
Each winter, in an effort to freshen the water in Wellington Dam, the Water Corporation scours saline water from the bottom of the dam, the volume of this saline slug is approximately the same as will be produced by the controversial \$1 billion+ Reverse Osmosis Plant at Kwinana for supply to Perth water users.





**A damming indictment, 450,000 tonnes of saline scour water wasted to the sea each day, over winter, this represents a loss of 1000 litres per day for every house in Perth. This water can be easily treated and re-used for the benefit of all users.**







The Agritech proposal was reviewed by the Committee and found to have significant unresolved issues including that the:

1. Total costs are high given the need to include integration into the existing water supply scheme and saline disposal;
2. The proposal does not resolve irrigation salinity issues nor does it improve the salinity in the river at any stage; and
3. The source of water for the proposal is scour water and varies from year to year in quantity and quality, and will decrease significantly in volume as the dam becomes fresher due to the diversion of salt above the dam.

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It should be noted that the recommended options by the Collie-Wellington Committee include innovative approaches, such as using the water pressure from the dam to generate electricity to power the water treatment plant.

JOHN KOBELKE MLA  
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES

25 JUL 2017

100 Dora Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000. Tel: 08 9447 4000. Fax: 08 9447 4001  
Email: [john.kobelke@water.wa.gov.au](mailto:john.kobelke@water.wa.gov.au) [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au)



A second proposal presented to the Steering Committee, promoting a scheme involving the desalination of saline groundwater drained from the eastern catchment and beyond, **was comprehensive and involved a number of innovative elements.**

This proposal included:

- Saline groundwater being collected from the eastern catchment and beyond using a network of open canals.
- Part of the water collected being channelled through a brackish water reverse osmosis plant, the remainder being piped to the ocean.
- The desalination plant was driven by hydrostatic pressure created by difference in elevation between the top of the Darling Scarp and Brunswick, where the reverse osmosis plant was located.
- While the canals are being built and until they became fully operational, the plant would use Wellington Dam water as its input.

Many elements of the scheme fall outside this investigation's Terms of Reference. Moreover, given its complexity, much more time would be needed than that available to complete this investigation, as a proper assessment of the engineering and financial feasibility of the main scheme is required.

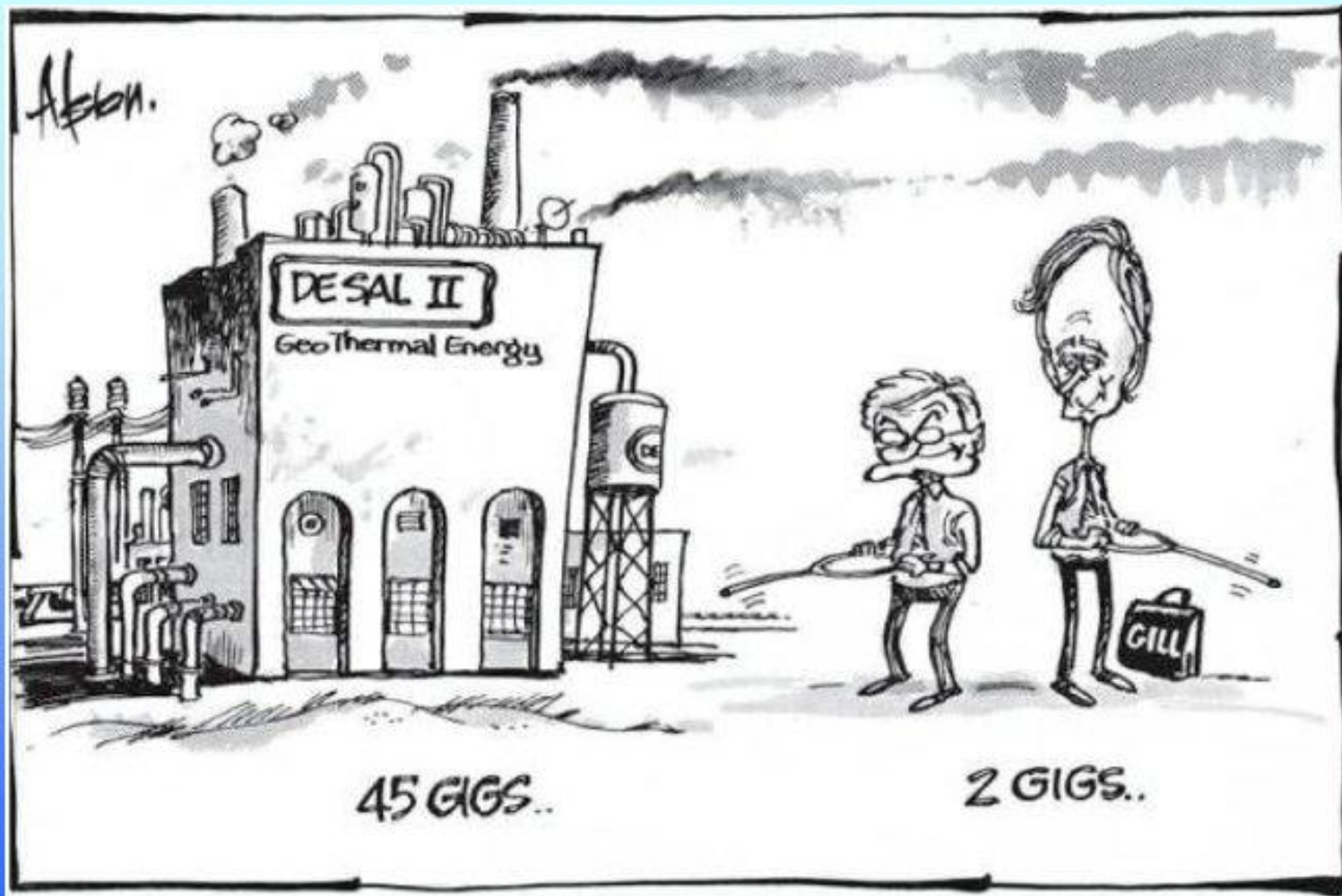


## Is the Wellington Dam the answer to Perth's water shortage?

Broadcast: 29/06/2007

Reporter: Elvira Nuic

JOHN KOBELKE: As Minister for consumer protection I was well aware of people making offers too good to refuse. They usually turned out to be bogus.



Confucius say;

Perth is not running out of water

The water is running out of Perth

Close