

## Lets develop the Murray Darling Basin, Build the Clarence River Scheme!

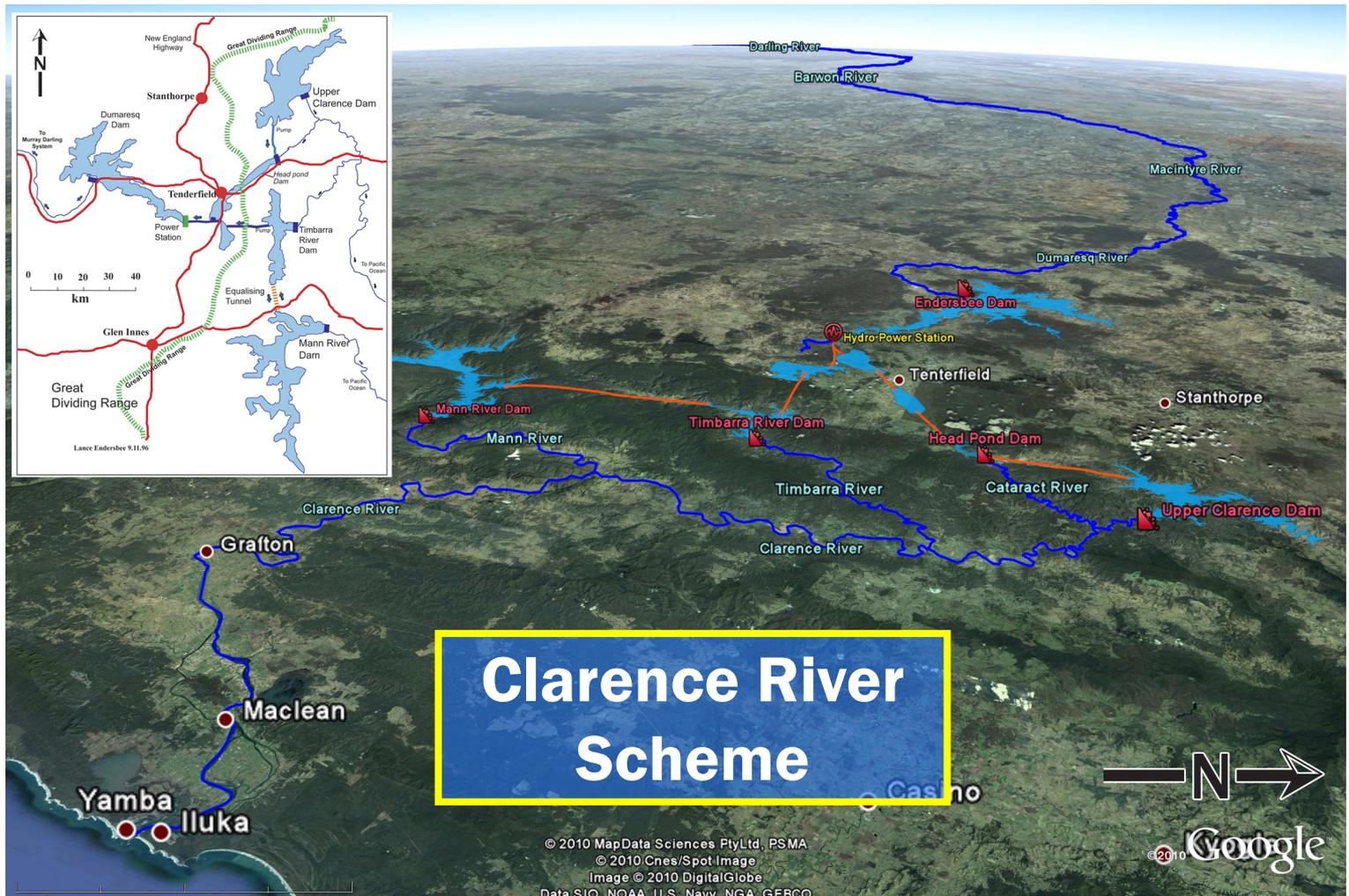
The Murray Darling Basin Authority's draft proposal for cuts of 27% to 37% of irrigation in the Murray Darling Basin for environmental flows is an assault on Australia's greatest food production area. Instead of reducing this production for so called "environmental flows" out to sea, we should be further developing this Basin and greatly increasing its productive output potential.

The Clarence River Scheme is a great water project that will provide increased water supply, on the scale of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, to the Murray Darling system. A concept of this scheme was most recently proposed by Professor Lance Endersbee. His proposal was to take some of the large amounts of annual flood waters in the Clarence River catchment area, pump it over the Great Dividing Range, and then let it flow into the Murray Darling system. This water project will open up new areas for irrigation along the Dumaresq, Macintyre and Barwon Rivers as well as increasing the water flow into Darling and Murray Rivers. This increased flow of water to into the Darling and Murray Rivers will also flush out the toxic blue green algae that is creating problems in these rivers.

Another proposal by Lance Endersbee is to double production in the Basin by investing in new irrigation systems and canals. This will prevent the water wastage, in the present irrigation system, which is also causing salinity problems. By investing in these new irrigation systems (such as drip irrigation) and canals, you can double the irrigation using the same amount of water already being used.

The Clarence River scheme, as well as increasing food production, will also increase the precipitation in the Murray Darling area, thus creating more plant life. The increase in agriculture and plant life will make the Murray Darling basin more habitable for humans and other living organisms as well. So if we are so worried about the environment, why don't we create more life and food production by further developing the Murray Darling system?

The Citizens Electoral Council will soon be releasing a video on developing the Murray Darling basin, which includes the Clarence River Scheme, as opposed to reducing our production.



Media Release - 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2010

## Murray-Darling shutdown interferes with nature; who benefits?

The mooted goal of making the Murray River flow out to sea every year, including during drought years, by slashing irrigation in the Murray-Darling basin by up to 37 per cent, is an interference with nature, to kill off people, Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood declared today.

“The Greenies are keen to mess with nature to annihilate people; I say let’s improve nature to benefit people,” he said.

Mr Isherwood explained, “It is not ‘natural’ for the Murray to flow out to sea every year. Long before European settlement, and the fairly recent development of the brilliant irrigation infrastructure that turned the basin into Australia’s food bowl, the Murray and Darling rivers often dried out.

“In 1828, when Charles Sturt travelled down the Darling River, he found the water in places was too salty to drink, and when he reached the mouth of the Murray River he had to turn back because it was closed. In 1923, Victoria’s water commissioner Sir Ronald East was photographed at Nyah (near Swan Hill) standing astride the Murray River, which just was a tiny trickle.

“Dry rivers are not ‘sick’, they simply reflect the state of the biosphere at that point. Rivers are how water, evaporated mostly from the oceans and rained over land, flows back into the ocean again. Any water drawn from a river for irrigation isn’t ‘lost’; it ends up evaporating and returning as rainfall, either somewhere else on land and flowing out to sea through another river, or raining directly into the ocean. What is natural for the Murray is what is happening now: a dry, followed by drought-breaking rains that make the rivers flow again.”

Mr Isherwood accused the Gillard government of betraying Australia by handing policy for the nation’s food bowl over to known population reduction radicals, the so-called Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists.

“The Wentworth Group is a front for Prince Philip’s World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) which was established by him and former Nazi Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands to



Sir Ronald East astride the Murray during the drought of 1923

achieve human population reduction,” he said.

“Leading Wentworth Group member Tim Flannery is on record advocating a maximum population for Australia of just 6-7 million, justified by claiming that the ‘fragile’ nature of Australia’s ecosystems means it can’t sustain more than that.

“But that’s a fraud,” he insisted. “The ecosystems are not static. In fact, the Murray-Darling basin is itself an example of how ecosystems can be changed to become more productive, and support a much greater abundance of life. They hate it, because it benefits human beings.”

### The solution

Mr Isherwood said that if the government was serious about looking after both the Murray-Darling system and the welfare of the Australian people, it would build the Clarence River Scheme in north-east NSW.

“The Clarence River Scheme would divert some of the enormous volume of water in the Clarence River over the Great Dividing Range and into the headwaters of the Darling

River system,” he said. “It would keep the Darling River full enough for both irrigation and for permanent flows into the Murray River, and further to that would guarantee water for both Adelaide and the lower lakes. The scheme, as devised by the late engineering great, Emeritus Professor Lance Endersbee, would also generate hydroelectricity.”

Mr Isherwood concluded, “This is the kind of creative solution that is possible, if the genocidal ideology behind the push for population-reduction is not part of the government’s decision-making.

“Australia has had enough of this ideology. Before we lose what is left of our food bowl and the decades of investment in blood sweat and tears by the pioneering family farmers who developed it, and the food security that goes with it, I urge Australians to join with the CEC to stop its—and our nation’s—destruction.”