

Letter to the editor Canowindra Phoenix January 2019.

To the Editor Canowindra Phoenix.

I congratulate Bob Sherwood for maintaining the conversation regarding damming rivers for surface storage of water for use by people. For continuing conversation about the availability of natural resources allows many people to gradually gain a deep ecological understanding of how the Australian landscape works as a self-organising eco-system.

For over ten thousand years people have misunderstood the interconnectedness of vegetation density, the 'economy' of water and water availability in regions of the world. When will people stop learning only from people and start learning only from Nature?

Nature is our servant if we are Nature's steward.

It is a fact of Nature working, that all natural phenomena is counterintuitive to human logic. Surface storage of water evaporates more water than people, plants and animals use in any region. As does vegetation bare surfaces.

In every case, over all the Earth where any single species has dominated 'eco-logic', (eco-system function) deserts expand, vegetation density is lost and there is less water available regionally. Historically, induced 'monocultures' have decertified Africa, Arabia, South America and Australia all within the mid latitudes of the world, where people live.

Australia's regulated inland river catchment systems by rules and regulations, including the Murray/Darling Basin are both a demonstration of single species dominant landscapes and a disgrace to the human intellect.

In Australia in our modern era, every 'regulated' stream valley habitat is desertifying with massive loss of soil, water, all living species and vegetation density. Evolution, only occurs when human history is not repeated.

The only way Nature allows people to increase the local supply of water in any region in the mid latitudes of the world where all man made deserts occur, is for people to store water sub-surface as in-ground water, away from evaporation.

To increase in-ground water, land owners only need to increase vegetation density over all land surfaces to reduce evaporation, increase soil porosity to absorb and retain more water from rain and dew and as well, use growing vegetation to sediment up all eroded gullies that drain/erode water, soil and species from entire catchments. By using natural plant/animal systems the land, soil, water and all living species accumulate and co-evolve together locally as whole self-resourcing biological communities, as an eco-system. Whole self-resourcing multi-species communities as "Habitat in Common", continuously evolving, have no need for man-made resources as Nature supplies all resources needed. Even climate is a regional phenomenon dependant on vegetation density.

As a long term freehold land owner resident within the Belabula and Lachlan catchments of the Canowindra district, my farming family and I are part of the rapidly growing 'regenerative farming' grass-roots movement that rejects consumerism, inappropriate technology and all industrial agricultural practices. As farmers who regenerate soil, water, forests, grasslands, wild-life, farm crops and animals and natural energy on our own land, we are not consumers of resources, we are producers. We are not dependant on expensive outside sources of resources or financial assistance as we increase, use and re-cycle to regenerate all our own natural resources on our own land and regularly top the local sales with our surplus produce.

We are also training apprentices and partners in low input cost/high yield 'regenerative farming' in many parts of the state, so 'future farmers' can and will farm the natural land and water system ecologically, productively, profitably, sustainably and enjoyably. Being dependent only on our own imagination and effort.

The real economy is established by the 'natural increase' of self-replacing soil, water and living species that we retain and accumulate on our own land to support all of life, that is both our health food and our capacity to earn an income, through sharing abundant life with others.

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