

18 June 2006 - NO DAM FOR RATHDOWNEY PRESS RELEASE

Air pollution of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Kingaroy power stations scientifically proven to reduce rainfall in SE Queensland dams catchments- Cloud Seeding option to restore rainfall totally ignored by Beattie Government

“It is unbelievable that the Beattie Government is refusing to investigate Cloud Seeding as an option to restore lost rainfall and to alleviate the water crisis in SE Queensland. We have a Government with a dam mentality and the blinkers are on”, said John Robinson, spokesperson for the No Dam for Rathdowney Action Group.

Findings published in the March 2000 edition of Science journal and entitled “Suppression of Rain and Snow by Urban and Industrial Air Pollution”, clearly show that clouds over the catchment areas of the Great Dividing Ranges are affected by urban and industrial air pollution that inhibits the rainfall formation processes.

Mr Aron Gingis, Research Associate at Monash University, School of Geography and Environmental Science states, “The use of the latest satellite technology measurements, adapted by NASA, allows for the better identification of clouds that can be forced to precipitate over the Brisbane, Gold Coast and Toowoomba catchments areas. This can be done by utilizing timely and accurate application of Cloud Seeding technology that can replicate natural process of rain enhancement.”

Scientifically based Cloud Seeding technology is approved by the World Meteorological Organization Scientific Committee and is already delivering measurable and significant results in more than 40 Countries around the world including Australia, USA, Israel and Thailand. Tasmania has been using Cloud Seeding for the last 40 years with huge successes.

Mr Gingis is adamant that “building new dams in the catchments of Southeast Queensland, which is experiencing substantial reduction of rainfall and reduced river flow, will only create new empty dams”

Mr Gingis informed the Beattie Government in October 2001 concerning the option of Rain Enhancement, but his proposals were ignored and left un-answered. On 3 March 2006, Mr Gingis wrote a letter to Premier Peter Beattie asking for an opportunity to meet and further inform the Government on the Cloud Seeding Proposal.

Mr. Michael Tandy, Senior Policy Advisor to Minister Palaszczuk refused to organize a meeting or to even consider the latest scientific rain enhancement methodology to restore rainfall in Southeast Queensland.

Cloud Seeding rain enhancement is substantially cheaper per megalitre than other options (New Dams, Recycling and Desalination) for providing water to SE Qld. As an example, Cloud Seeding is estimated to cost \$40-50 per megalitre compared with Desalination or Recycling \$1200-\$1500 per megalitre.

Mr Aron Gingis (M.B.A, Dip Eng) Research Associate Monash University, is happy to speak with the Media on this issue. PH: (03) 9502 8477 Mobile: 0419 873 182

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