

Northern water to replace need for expansion of coastal city desalination plant

As a result of 2002-2009 water shortages affecting coastal city populations along the east coast multiple desalination plant were built to meet public needs. Most of these plants are now only part used or mothballed, but it is interesting to note the 700 GL of water they supply could have come from our proposed N to S canal and was offered. When required, the annual savings by replacing desalinated water with northern water would have amounted to \$1.1Bn pa when water costs and carbon offsets are considered.

Since desalination plant has been installed on the east coast there have been more problems with flooding than water shortages . Brisbane problems with flooding were particularly expensive as a result of leaving city dam levels too high to protect against shortages. With a N to S canal connected to the water grid there is less need for Brisbane to be concerned with city water shortages as extra supply can be provided from grid. Brisbane water authorities have been advised how this can occur.

Some of the expensive flooding problems experienced in recent years also need future mitigation and we consider the introduction of specialised reinforced levees to contain flooding should be introduced during canal construction. We have seen strong levees that have been successfully built into the Arizona canal in USA to combat large floods that could impact cities and towns We would suggest similar infrastructure be considered here .