

Press review 4 – 15 February 2013

## Hydroelectric Power Capacity Rising

[http://www.zawya.com/story/Iran\\_Hydroelectric\\_power\\_capacity\\_rising-ZAWYA20130205044314/](http://www.zawya.com/story/Iran_Hydroelectric_power_capacity_rising-ZAWYA20130205044314/)

Iran's hydro-power plant capacity is increasing, currently at 25,000 megawatts (MW), said head of Energy Ministry's Department for Water and Wastewater.

Alireza Daemi put the installed hydroelectric power plant capacity of the country at 14,000 MW, adding building small and medium hydroelectric power plants with the help of private sector is among the policies of the ministry, IRNA reported.

He said that some 14 percent of total power plant capacity of the country pertains to hydroelectric power plants.

Electricity generation capacity of the country's power plants is at 50,000 MW, half of which is not economically viable, he added.

Daemi also said the total investment in hydroelectric power plants has so far been made by the government. The official added that 13 large dams and six hydroelectric power plants were built before the victory of Islamic Revolution in 1979 and that the figure has respectively increased to 185 and 60.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/international/brahmaputra-dams-not-to-affect-water-flows-to-india-china/article4378866.ece>

## Brahmaputra dams not to affect water flows to India: China

Beijing, Feb 4:

Maintaining that its move to build three more dams on Brahmaputra river in Tibet will not affect the flows to down stream areas, China today said it is in “communication and cooperation” with India over cross-border river issues.

“China has always taken a responsible attitude towards cross-border river development. China and India are maintaining communication and cooperation on the cross-border river issue,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here.

She was responding a question about India’s assertion that China should ensure that the interests of downstream countries are not harmed and whether there was any communication between the two countries in this regard.

Hua did not specify whether the two countries are in communication regarding the new dams which it proposes to build by 2015.

China has not officially communicated to India about the three dams even though top officials of the two countries held high level talks on a host of bilateral issues.

The plans for building dams came to the notice of the Indian officials while going through an official document of new projects which was approved by the Chinese cabinet last month.

India and China have an agreement on sharing the data of the Brahmaputra waters but do not have any treaty similar to India and Pakistan on sharing the river waters.

Indian officials maintain that the water flows by and large remained the same in recent years.

“We fully considered the impact of the down stream region. The planned power stations you mentioned will not affect the flood control or disaster reduction efforts as well as ecological environment of lower reaches”, Hua said.

China is currently building at Dagu, Jiacha and Jiexu in addition to a 510 MW water project at Zangmu.

With an average altitude of 4,500 meters, Brahmaputra, called Yarlung Zangbo in Tibet, is the world’s highest river.

It originates in the glacial regions of the northern Himalayas, runs 2,057 km through southwest China’s Tibet autonomous region, passes into India and Bangladesh.

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## **Govt to assess water loss from China dams**

<http://www.gulf-times.com//India/185/details/340631/-Govt-to-assess-water-loss-from-China-dams>

**IANIS/New Delhi**

The government yesterday said it will look into how much water will be lost from its rivers because of dams being built by China on the Brahmaputra river. “The ministry of water resources will advise us

whether these dams are just run-of-the-river dams or storage dams. Our understanding is that these are run-of-the-river dams, in which case we would not be affected," External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid told reporters here.

"We also have to get expert advice on what is the downstream impact and how much water is likely to be removed. We have indicated (to China) that we have downstream concerns," he added.

The government had on Thursday urged China to ensure its plans to construct upstream dams on the Brahmaputra river do not harm interests of lower riparian states.

"As a lower riparian state with considerable established user rights to the waters of the river, India has conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities, including at the highest levels of the government of the People's Republic of China," an external affairs ministry spokesperson said.

The Brahmaputra originates in the Tibet Autonomous Region and flows into India in Arunachal Pradesh.

Meanwhile an NGO alleged that China was building 26 hydropower dams on the upper reaches of the river in Tibet.

Three years ago, the NGO Jana Jagriti had made public photographs claiming that China was building mega hydropower dams on the upper Brahmaputra in Tibet to divert the waters under a project called "South to North Water diversion Projects".

"Jana Jagriti brought this fact to light three years ago through the media that the water of the Brahmaputra is not only being used for dams and hydro power projects but its waters are also being diverted by China. China has accepted this," said Ashokananda Singhal, president of Jana Jagriti.

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<http://www.enerzine.com/7/15259+focus-sur-la-grande-oubliee---lenergie-hydroelectrique+.html>

## Focus sur la grande oubliée : l'énergie hydroélectrique

**Avec 16 % de la production électrique mondiale, l'hydroélectricité constitue la troisième source de production électrique mondiale, derrière le charbon (41 %) et le gaz (21 %).**

Chaque année, dans le monde, environ 3.400 TWh (soit 3.400 milliards de kWh) d'électricité sont produits à partir de l'énergie hydraulique. L'hydroélectricité représente 20 % des capacités électriques mondiales avec 1.007.000 MW (soit 1.007 millions de kW).

Plus de 16 % de l'électricité produite en Europe est d'origine hydraulique, ce qui en fait la troisième source de production d'électricité derrière l'électricité thermique fossile (charbon, fuel, gaz) et le nucléaire. La France est le 3e pays européen producteur d'hydroélectricité, derrière la Norvège et la Suède.

### **Et en France ?**

Il existe 2.250 centrales hydroélectriques en France, de tailles et de puissances très diverses.

La plus grande se situe à Grand-Maison, dans l'Isère, avec une puissance installée de 1.800 MW, et plus de 2.000 petits ouvrages sont répartis sur tout le territoire. Ce parc d'une puissance de 25.400 MW, 20 % des capacités électriques françaises, assure aujourd'hui 13 % de la production électrique, soit 67 TWh par an. La production en année moyenne correspond à la consommation domestique moyenne annuelle d'environ 27 millions d'habitants, soit de l'ordre de 40 % de la population française.

L'hydroélectricité permet également de garantir la sûreté du système électrique par sa capacité d'intervention rapide en puissance de pointe, avec ses 14.000 MW adossés à de grands réservoirs.

Comme énoncée plus haut, la petite hydroélectricité en France comprend un peu plus de 2.000 petites centrales réparties sur 250.000 km de rivières pour une puissance installée de 2.000 MW. La production annuelle de 7,5 TWh représente environ 10 % de la production hydroélectrique dans l'hexagone et 1,5 % du total de l'énergie électrique nationale.

### **Les différents types de centrales ?**

#### Les centrales au fil de l'eau :

Les centrales au fil de l'eau, petites ou grandes, ne disposent pas de possibilité de stockage et produisent au gré des débits du cours d'eau. L'hydraulique au fil de l'eau constitue une puissance installée d'environ 7.600 MW, et on considère que la moitié de cette puissance est garantie toute l'année. Sa production représente 37 TWh par an, soit plus de la moitié de la production hydroélectrique française. Certains de ces ouvrages peuvent atteindre des puissances importantes, comme ceux disposés sur le Rhône et le Rhin, qui produisent près des deux-tiers de la production au fil de l'eau française, pour seulement une trentaine d'ouvrages.

Les centrales de lac et d'écluse : Les centrales de lac ou d'écluse disposent d'une retenue d'eau leur permettant de stocker celle-ci de la turbiner aux périodes de plus forte demande. Ces deux catégories de centrales se distinguent en fonction de la durée de remplissage de leur réservoir : moins de 400 heures pour les centrales d'écluse, au-delà pour les centrales de lac. Les centrales d'écluse ont donc des durées d'accumulation assez courtes et modulent leur production au niveau journalier, voire hebdomadaire, là où les centrales de lac peuvent assurer une modulation saisonnière de leur production.

#### Les stations de transfert d'énergie par pompage (STEP)

Les STEP sont des centrales de pompage - turbinage fonctionnant avec une retenue supplémentaire à l'aval. Pendant les heures creuses, l'eau est pompée de la retenue inférieure vers la retenue supérieure, pour être ensuite turbinée dans le sens inverse pendant les heures de pointe. La dizaine d'installations que compte la France totalise une puissance de 5 000 MW, mobilisables en quelques minutes.

#### Un autre type de centrale

On peut aussi « turbiner » l'eau potable ou les eaux usées. Par exemple, lorsque les eaux potables sont captées en source de montagne, l'acheminement vers les robinets des usagers nécessite des installations pour dissiper la trop grande pression pour que l'eau n'arrive pas dans le réseau avec trop de puissance. Pourquoi ne pas placer une turbine qui récupérerait

cette énergie pour produire de l'électricité ? Les technologies existent et des collectivités les utilisent.

Quelle est la définition d'une petite centrale hydroélectrique (PCH)

Une PCH se définit comme une installation de production énergétique, d'une puissance inférieure à 10.000 kW, transformant l'énergie hydraulique d'un cours d'eau en énergie électrique. D'après l'UNIPEDE (Union Internationale des Producteurs et Distributeurs d'Énergie Électrique) on classe les PCH en fonction de la puissance installée et on parle de :

- Petite centrale pour une puissance comprise entre 2 000 kW et 10 000 kW
- Mini-centrale pour une puissance comprise entre 500 kW et 2 000 kW
- Microcentrale pour une puissance comprise entre 20 kW et 500 kW
- Pico-centrale pour une puissance inférieure à 20 kW

### **Quels en sont les acteurs ?**

Le SER et France Hydro Electricité ont justement publié un annuaire des fabricants et fournisseurs (.pdf) de la filière hydroélectrique française. Elle rassemble plus d'une centaine d'entreprises, PME, ETI et grands groupes, ayant développé des compétences de haut niveau et un savoir-faire qu'elles exportent dans le monde entier. Cet ensemble d'entreprises constitue une filière industrielle française d'excellence qui génère, aujourd'hui, dans notre pays, plus de 20 000 emplois directs, indirects et induits.

### **Quel potentiel de développement ?**

L'étude du potentiel hydroélectrique menée par l'Union Française de l'Électricité en 2011 est un inventaire précis des sites de production d'électricité par l'énergie de l'eau encore inexploités à ce jour. Elle dévoile l'existence d'un potentiel représentant 10,6 TWh, soit une augmentation potentielle de + 16 % de la production hydroélectrique annuelle :

- L'équivalent de 2/3 de la consommation domestique de la région Rhône-Alpes
- + 4 millions d'habitants français supplémentaires (soit les agglomérations de Lyon et Marseille réunies) alimentés demain par l'hydroélectricité, énergie locale, propre et renouvelable !
- Un potentiel hydraulique comparable à celui de grands fleuves comme le Rhin ou le Rhône

L'étude a été complétée en 2012 par le croisement des rivières à potentiel avec les projets de classement de cours d'eau. Cet exercice révèle que, si elles sont adoptées en l'état, les propositions de classements en liste 1 impactent 76 % du potentiel hydroélectrique sur nouveaux sites.

### **Principaux freins au développement de l'hydroélectricité en France**

Les efforts de la filière hydroélectrique pour contribuer aux objectifs de qualité de l'eau et de respect de la biodiversité vont engendrer une baisse du productible de 2 à 4 TWh. Par ailleurs, le renouvellement des concessions hydroélectriques va conduire à une perte de production du fait des nouvelles clauses environnementales associées.

Certains titres existants ne seront pas renouvelés. L'écart entre les politiques nationales et leur application sur le terrain conduit à des propositions de classement de cours d'eau au titre de la Loi sur l'Eau et les Milieux Aquatiques (Lema) très nombreuses, car souvent fondées sur les

seuls avis des experts d'usage et établies à titre conservatoire. Or ces propositions mettent en péril une grande part du potentiel hydroélectrique non encore exploité, notamment en petite hydroélectricité en sites neufs.

### **Production, économie, et emploi**

Le Grenelle de l'Environnement et la Programmation Pluriannuelle des Investissements ont fixé à la filière un objectif d'augmentation de sa puissance de pointe de 3.000 MW, et une production supplémentaire de 3 TWh, d'ici 2020. L'atteinte de ces objectifs, qui nécessitera simultanément la compensation des 2 à 4 TWh de pertes induites par la protection des milieux aquatiques, passera par l'optimisation du fonctionnement des centrales existantes mais surtout par la création de nouvelles centrales, dont de type STEP (Station de Transfert d'Energie par Pompage), qui constituent un outil performant d'équilibrage du réseau par leur capacité à stocker l'énergie.

Le développement de l'hydroélectricité aura un impact significatif sur l'économie. Selon une étude réalisée par le BIPE (Bureau d'Informations et de Prévisions Economiques) pour le SER en décembre 2012, près de 10.000 emplois directs, indirects et induits supplémentaires seront ainsi générés par les investissements et l'exploitation de la filière d'ici 2020.

*« Si son potentiel est exploité, 31 000 emplois seraient au total générés par la filière à l'horizon 2030. Qui plus est, ce développement concourrait à l'objectif fixé par le Président de la République de réduire de 40% les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, puisque ce sont plus de 5 millions de tonnes de CO2 annuelles qui seraient évitées »,* explique Jean-Louis BAL, Président du SER.

*« En développant son potentiel, l'hydroélectricité contribue significativement aux objectifs de la transition énergétique et au développement du futur mix énergétique, mais aussi à la création d'emplois et au développement des territoires. C'est ce que nous souhaitons »,* déclarent Anne Penalba, Présidente de France Hydro Electricité et Jean-Charles Galland, Président de la commission Hydroélectricité du SER.

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<http://www.timesnews.net/article/9057034/tva-says-dams-reservoirs-averted-800m-in-flood-damage-in-january>

By [staff report](#)

Published February 6th, 2013 10:27 pm

KNOXVILLE — The Tennessee Valley Authority, through its system of dams and reservoirs, said it was able to avert more than \$800 million in flood damage to communities along the Tennessee River and its tributaries in January.

According to TVA numbers, \$17.4 million in flood damage was averted in Kingsport following storms in mid-January that drenched the city with approximately 5 inches of rain in four days, immediately followed by nearly 6 inches of snow.

Elsewhere in Tennessee, TVA estimated it averted \$710 million in flood damage in Chattanooga; \$61 million in Lenoir City; \$7 million in Knoxville; \$5.5 million in South Pittsburg; \$2.9 million in Elizabethton; \$812,000 in Clinton and \$73,000 in Savannah.

TVA is using its 49 dams to store and then gradually release water after what was the third-largest recorded rainfall and runoff for a January in TVA history.

During the month of January, the eastern part of the Tennessee Valley, including Knoxville and the Tri-Cities area, received approximately 10 inches of rain, and the area below Chattanooga and West Tennessee averaged about 8 inches of rain.

“We hold water behind the dams in order to minimize downstream flood impacts. After the high water crested on the Tennessee River and its tributary rivers, we started gradually releasing water out of the tributary reservoirs to recover storage space and to prepare for the next rain event,” said John McCormick, senior vice president, River Operations and Renewables.

TVA engineers use computer flood modeling, water elevation calculations and property value assessments along the Tennessee River and its tributaries to determine floodwater impacts if TVA dams didn’t exist.

During an average year, TVA’s reservoir operations avert approximately \$250 million in flood damage. TVA estimates it has averted nearly \$7 billion in flood damage since it completed its first dam, Norris Dam, in 1936.

TVA continues to release water to recover flood storage space at most of its dams, including all nine dams on the Tennessee River. Excess water is also being released using spillway gates or sluice gates along with generators operating at maximum capacity at all 29 hydro generating dams, producing about 3,300 megawatts of electricity. That is enough to power about 1.8 million homes.

“We try to avoid spilling water because it’s low-cost power generation, but when we have a lot of water our No. 1 priority becomes reducing flood damage risks. This is a perfect example of why TVA lowers the reservoirs to their lowest elevations during the fall and winter months,” McCormick said.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, a corporate agency owned by the U.S. government, provides electricity for business customers and distribution utilities that serve 9 million people in parts of seven southeastern states at prices below the national average. TVA, which receives no taxpayer money and makes no profits, also provides flood control,

navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists utilities and state and local governments with economic development.

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## Brazil Sees Its Destiny in New Dams

02/10/2013

*The Washington Post*

By Juan Forero

When it is completed in 2015, the Jirau hydroelectric dam will span five miles across the Madeira River, feature more giant turbines than any other dam in the world and hold as much concrete as 47 towers the size of the Empire State Building.

And then there are the power lines, draped along 1,400 miles of forests and fields to carry electricity from here in the center of South America to Brazil's urban nerve center, Sao Paulo.

Still, it won't be enough.

The dam and the Santo Antonio complex that is being built a few miles downstream will provide just 5 percent of what government energy planners say the country will need in the next 10 years. So Brazil is building more dams, many more, courting controversy by locating the vast majority of them in the world's largest and most biodiverse forest.

"The investment to build these plants is very high, and they are to be put in a region which is an icon for environmental preservation, the Amazon," said Paulo Domingues, energy planning director for the Ministry of Mines and Energy. "So that has worldwide repercussions."

Between now and 2021, the energy ministry's building schedule will be feverish: Brazilian companies and foreign conglomerates will put up 34 sizable dams in an effort to increase the country's capacity to produce energy by more than 50 percent.

The Brazil projects have received less attention than China's dam-building spree, which has plugged up canyons and bankrolled hydroelectric projects far from Asia.

But Brazil is undertaking one of the world's largest public works projects, one that will cost more than \$150 billion and harness the force of this continent's great rivers. The objective is to help the country of 199 million people achieve what Brazilian leaders call its destiny: becoming a modern and efficient world-class economy with an ample supply of energy for office towers, assembly lines, refineries and iron works.

"Brazil is a country that's growing, developing, and it needs energy," said Eduardo de Melo Pinto, president of Santo Antonio Energia. "And the potential in energy production in Brazil is located, for the most part, in Amazonia. And that's why this is important for this project to be developed."

Jirau, Santo Antonio and other projects, though, have until now generated more tension than electricity, raising questions that range from their environmental impact to whether future generations will be saddled with gigantic debt.

Lives torn asunder

International Rivers, a U.S.-based environmental group that has tracked government agencies involved in the dam building, says plans call for 168 dams to be completed by 2021. Most are small dams that will be used to regulate water or to power silos, mineral extraction facilities or industrial complexes. But whether the dams are

large or small, homesteaders and Indian leaders say they will cause irreversible changes in a forest that plays a vital role in absorbing the world's carbon emissions and regulating its climate.

Across Brazil, rivers are being diverted. Canals and dikes are being built. Roads are being paved, and blocks of concrete are being laid across a network of waterways that provides a fifth of the world's fresh water.

And the big dams will inundate at least 2,500 square miles of forests and fields - an area larger than the state of Delaware.

Environmentalists say the dams are a throwback, not the kind of projects a modern, democratic country should be aggressively pursuing. They say Brazil should focus instead on developing wind and solar energy while overhauling existing plants and instituting other reforms to reduce electrical demand.

"This is a sort of 1950s development mentality that often proceeds in a very authoritarian way, in terms of not respecting human rights, not respecting environmental law, not really looking at the alternatives," said Brent Millikan, Amazon program director in Brazil for International Rivers.

In a swath of Rondonia state, along the BR-364 highway, several residents said the dams had uprooted communities of subsistence farmers and fishermen, unalterably changing their way of life for the worse.

Telma Santos Pinto, 53, said she had to leave her home of 36 years, receiving \$18,000 as compensation from the companies building Jirau.

"The compensation was very, very low," she said. "And we were obligated to accept that."

Her town, Mutum Parana, was left underwater. Most of her neighbors moved into Nova Mutum - or New Mutum - a town of 1,600 homes, schools, churches and stores put up by the builders of Jirau.

"We were a community, all of us united," she said. "All of us helped each other."

Such laments come up against the hard economic realities that Brazil faces.

By 2021, the economy is projected to expand by 63 percent, the energy ministry says. Hundreds of thousands of people are receiving electricity for the first time each year, and a ballooning middle class is consuming more. Economic planners also predict that Brazil could become the world's fifth-largest economy in a few years.

No Brazilian leader is more focused on that objective than President Dilma Rousseff, a former 1970s-era guerrilla who was energy minister in her predecessor's government. She says that Brazil is "privileged" to have so much water and that it is logical for the country to rely heavily on hydropower.

She counters environmentalists by arguing that Brazil's energy mix - the country also relies on solar, wind and biomass, all renewable energy sources - is among the world's cleanest.

"Economic growth is not contrary to the best environmental practices," Rousseff said at the inauguration of one huge dam in October. "We are proving that it's possible to increase electrical generation and at the same time respect the environment."

Priority projects

To be sure, the footprints of the new dams will be smaller than those of the past.

The proposed Belo Monte project on the Xingu, a huge dam that has galvanized environmentalists and Hollywood luminaries, will flood five times less land than the 29-year-old Tucuruí dam, Brazil's second-biggest, said Domingues, the energy ministry planner.

The Jirau dam includes ladders to help migrating fish make it upstream and conservation programs for animal and bird life.

Gil Maranhão, the Jirau dam's communications and business development director, said "the real deforestation is maybe zero" because the flooding has taken out cattle ranches and small subsistence farms rather than large swaths of forest.

He said the \$7.7 billion project has created jobs and prompted the consortium building the dam to spend \$600 million on social programs and housing for the 350 families that had to be relocated.

"The impacted population move from slums without electricity, without sewage, and we put them in new cities built for them," he said, pointing to Nova Mutum.

Jose Gomes, a civil engineer who is the project's institutional director, said rigid requirements ensured that the environmental impacts of Jirau and Santo Antonio were minimized. Building dams, he said, here and elsewhere, is a major priority that will not be derailed.

"Brazil needs two hydroelectric dams like this to provide power each and every year," Gomes said. "We're going to have energy guaranteed."

Cranes stretched into the sky and steel reinforcements were going up. Although the turbines were not yet operating, the power houses were firmly installed. Upriver, more than 100 square miles of land were underwater.

It was clear that the mighty Madeira, the biggest tributary of the Amazon, had been tamed.

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## Dams done in 5 years, says Plodprasop

### COMMUNITIES TO BE RELOCATED

- Published: [10 Feb 2013](#) at 00.00
- Newspaper section: [News](#)

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/335168/dams-done-in-5-years-says-plodprasop>

Large scale dam projects, including the controversial Mae Wong and Kaeng Sua Ten dams will be completed within five years, says Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi.

Speaking during the Yingluck Government Meets the People programme yesterday, Mr Plodprasop said the dams would be part of the government's 350 billion baht water management and flood prevention plans.

He expects protests because local communities must be relocated for the construction to proceed. However, he said the government would do its best to help affected people and minimise negative impacts. He also said that all the environmental impact assessments would be carried out for each project.

Mr Plodprasop, who chairs the government's Water Management and Flood Prevention Commission, asked people who might be affected to make a sacrifice for the public interest. He said severe flooding in 2011 affected two million people and caused 1.4 trillion baht in damage to one-fifth of the country.

He hopes that the government's water management and flood prevention projects will prevent such severe flooding from recurring.

Mr Plodprasop's push for the dam projects has revived protests from dam opponents, especially the controversial Mae Wong dam in Nakhon Sawan and the Kaeng Sua Ten dam in Phrae.

A group of Phrae villagers have set up a camp at the proposed Kaeng Sua Ten dam site to prevent authorities from inspecting the area and vowed to "fight to the death" if the government went ahead with the dam. They said the dam would not solve flood and drought problems in the Yom River basin and would damage the pristine teak forest of Mae Yom National Park.

Mr Plodprasop yesterday admitted that the projects would damage forests, but he promised to fully rehabilitate natural resources.

"We will replace every plot of affected forested area with three times the amount of forested land," Mr Plodprasop said.

Apart from building dams and reservoirs, the water management scheme will also include improvements to irrigation methods .

Meanwhile, Supoj Tovichakchaikul, Natural Resources and Environment Ministry deputy permanent secretary, said that the new Water Ministry should be operating by October so that it can take over water management and flood prevention projects and supervise all government agencies that deal with water.

He said the ministry would be large and oversee mega projects as well departments that typically receive large budgets, including the Royal Irrigation Department, the Water Resources Department, the Ground Water Resources Department, the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority and the Provincial Waterworks Authority.

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<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/overflow-of-scepticism-on-dams/story-fn59niix-1226578276444>

## Overflow of scepticism on dams

- by: *Sarah Elks*
- From: [The Australian](#)
- February 15, 2013 12:00AM
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VETERAN north Queensland canegrower Russ McNee reckons the construction of the Burdekin Falls dam -- the last megadam to be built in Australia -- would never happen today.

The 1.86 million megalitre water storage, which was finished in 1987, transformed the Burdekin region into the nation's sugar-growing powerhouse and provided Townsville, 165km to the north, with a guaranteed water supply to drive expansion.

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## South Australia too arid for more dams, say Liberals

- by: *Political Editor Tory Shepherd*
- From: [The Advertiser](#)
- February 15, 2013 12:00AM
  
- **TELL US: Should SA have more dams?**

**SOUTH Australia is too dry and has no good spots for new dams so a Liberal taskforce considers there is "little prospect" of building any here.**

*The Advertiser*

revealed yesterday that Opposition Leader Tony Abbott is considering a \$30 billion plan to build up to 100 dams across Australia, mainly in the north.

The plan mentions the Middle River dam on Kangaroo Island, but goes on to say that there was "little prospect for construction of significant new dams in SA".

"While SA has more than 30 existing dams of note, all are small to modest in scale which is indicative of the state's general lack of suitable major dam sites and largely arid nature," the report says.

The leaked report also mentions in passing the historical idea of building a dam on the Murray at Chowilla near the border with Victoria.

In the 1960s SA Liberal premier Tom Playford announced plans for an enormous dam upstream from Renmark, but that was eventually shelved.

The Coalition's Dams and Water Management Task Group Discussion Paper declares SA "with its limited options for new dams and dry climate" a "stormwater harvesting pioneer".

Mr Abbott said yesterday the report was a "good paper (but) not a finalised paper".

"In the end, there is a process that would have to be gone through ... but what we want to avoid is the dam phobia which has afflicted our country for at least a generation," he said.

"We currently use about six per cent of our available water resources. Nine per cent is the international average.

"If we could lift our utilisation ... our agricultural productivity would be massively increased."

Federal Water Minister Tony Burke said the plan was "neither economically nor environmentally nor in any way responsible". Trade Minister Craig Emerson called the plan "policy in chaos".

Barnaby Joyce, Senate leader for the Nationals, said the plan showed the Coalition were a credible alternative government.

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## Benefits of dams can flow into cities

By *SIMON CHAMBERLAIN*

Feb. 15, 2013, 4 a.m.

CLAIMS by conservationists that the introduction of more dams would degrade the environment and in particular populations of freshwater fish and birds seem at odds with what is happening in regional parts of Australia.

<a href="http://ad-apac.doubleclick.net/jump/onl.fairfaxregional/dailyliberal/;ctype=article;cat=dailyliberal;cat1=;cat2=homepage;region=centralwest;locstate=nsw;pos=1;tile=2;sz=xxx;ord=91864039?"></a>[See your ad here](#)

Take for example the claim by a spokesman from the Nature Conservation Council that in the Murray-Darling Basin, with water entitlements fully allocated, building dams would make no difference to the availability of water for agriculture.

Surely he jests?

Does not the presence of Burrendong Dam on the Macquarie River ensure there is not only water for irrigation but wetlands like the Macquarie Marshes?

Water flowing through Dubbo, as well as centres like Narromine, Trangie and Warren, not only generates food and fibre, jobs and futures in those towns but it also flows on into the cities. Water can be likened to money, the more you have in the bank the better off you could be. Spend all your money, waste it or whatever and you create serious issues for yourself and your families.

The council cites agricultural production driven by water efficiency. A good point but what has driven most of that efficiency is the cost of water rather than the availability of it.

A line in the press statement from the council should also raise eyebrows: "implementing robust land use planning controls are more cost-effective solutions".

What do they infer by robust land use planning controls?

Farmers and country people have always been suspicious of conservation groups calling for more land being closed up for parks and conservation. The draft plan for more dams is worthy of a second look: think of the money in the bank analogy.