

CURRICULUM VITAE – Dr D J BLACKMORE

Name: Donald John Blackmore

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Date of Birth: 29 March 1949

Marital Status: Married with 3 Daughters

Qualifications: Diploma of Civil Engineering - 1971
Post Graduate Engineer of Water Supply - 1979
Program for Management Development -
University of Melbourne - 1979
Fellow of Australian Academy of Technological Sciences &
Engineering – Nov 1998
Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* – May 2000

Honours: Centenary of Federation Medal in 2003
Member of the Order of Australia (AM) - 2004
For services to the environment, through the Murray-Darling Basin
Commission and the development of sustainable water management
practices.

**Current
Directorships** Oceanlinx – 1 April 2007
Agrilink – 26 May 2006
eWater Ltd – 4 August 2005 - Chairman
WaterEd Australia Pty Ltd – 23 December 2004
CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship – Chairman – June 2004
(not an incorporated entity)

From March 2004 Independent Consultant working on national and international water
issues, including work in South and East Asia, and North Africa. Also
chairing a range of R&D organisations associated with water in
Australia.(CRC eWater and Advisory Council Water For a Healthy
Country)

The main activities have been - participation in the team preparing the World Bank Water Country Assistance Strategy for Pakistan; chairing an international group reviewing development options for the Mekong River for the World Bank and being one of a two person independent expert group preparing a report on the hydrology of the Eastern Nile to inform governments of their future development potential.

In addition working with both the Western Australian and South Australian governments on major water management initiatives.

1990 to March 2004 Chief Executive Murray-Darling Basin Commission

**Other Positions
Held in Parallel**

1990 to 1999

Director and Deputy Chairperson

Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation

I was appointed to this position on three occasions and elected by my fellow Board members as Deputy Chair for the entire term. The Corporation commenced in 1990 and as a foundation Director I was involved in the set up of the organisation and the design of the program. LWRRDC moved from an organisation that largely responded to grant applications to one which ran a significant portfolio of commissioned R&D. I significantly influenced this direction as well as participating in most water related R&D activities.

2001 - 2004

Director and Deputy Chairperson

CRC for Plant Based Solutions to Salinity

This was the largest CRC in Australia tackling the complex problem of finding solutions to salinity that can be incorporated into our farming systems.

**International
Experience:**

Commissioner

World Commission on Dams

In 1998 I was appointed one of ten independent Commissioners on the World Commission on Dams. This is an international organisation funded by the World Bank, IUCN and about 15 other donors, whose task was to review the development effectiveness of large dams and recommend criteria and guidelines for future investment. The body had full fiduciary responsibilities for its activities and completed its report on time.

Mekong River Commission – Managed since 1997 an AusAID Funded Twinning Program between the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and the Mekong River Commission.

Aral Sea Disaster Area – Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel for the Water Management component of World Bank Project from 1999 to 2002.

Recent International Activity: Broad international experience with recent work related visits to: South Africa; Egypt; Czechoslovakia; Brazil; Vietnam; Thailand; Sri Lanka; USA; Central Asia; China; Laos;Brazil.

Employment History:

July 1990 to March 2004 - Chief Executive of Murray Darling Basin Commission

This role involved managing a large integrated natural resource and water management business covering an area of 1 million square km. The water business is the largest bulk water authority in Australia, has an asset base of approximately \$1.95 billion and manages the waters of the River Murray and Lower Darling to supply NSW, Victoria and South Australia. It presents challenges in the interjurisdictional nature of the compact, age of the assets and the competing demands for the service. The natural resource business provides policy and program support to five (5) jurisdictions - the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. In this role I have been heavily involved in the development of integrated catchment management and the push towards sustainable management of our natural resources. Key achievements have been the development of the Natural Resource Management Strategy, the Basin Salinity Management Strategy, the Cap on Water Supply, a system of continuous water accounting, Interstate Water Trade and the provision of environmental flows for the River Murray.

The overall budget of the Commission is approximately \$100million per annum.

October 1984 - July 1990 - Deputy Chief Executive - Murray-Darling Basin Commission

As Deputy Chief Executive of the River Murray Commission I was heavily involved in the translation of the River Murray Commission, a body focussed on water management issues, to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission - the Basin Authority vested with the responsibility of promoting sustainable use of the Basin's natural resources. During this period I managed the technical and policy development component of the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative and developed high level policy advice for the Commission and Governments.

January 1984 - September 1984 - Project Manager - Irrigation Component - Victorian State Water Plan

I managed the development of the irrigation component of the Victorian State Water Plan. Key outcome was the completion of the plan within the agreed time frame and the development of a significant change agenda for water management, including the financial management of irrigation districts, water pricing, transfer of water entitlements, enhanced irrigation efficiency and a focus on research and development. The majority of the recommendations of this report were adopted by Government.

September 1980 - January 1984 - District Engineer and Regional Manager, Swan Hill

During my three (3) years at Swan Hill I was responsible for the management of a complex irrigation region and the management of a staff of approximately 100. The region supplied water to 10 urban centres, domestic and stock water via a 2,000 km channel system, supplied two (2) pumped horticultural districts and gravity irrigation districts at Swan Hill, Fish Point and Mystic Park. I was involved in the construction of a highly controversial Salt Interception Scheme which was the first class action by landowners against Government. The scheme has subsequently halted and an outcome was my strong commitment to the community participation which has been a key component of my career since that time.

January 1970 to January 1984 - Rural Water Corporation

I was involved in a range of engineering and middle management positions covering the design and construction of irrigation, urban and major dams, the management of complex water distribution systems, policy development and management of the rating base. I was also involved with both the State and interstate dimensions of water management through my involvement in River Murray Commission and Snowy Mountains Council activities.