

Permaculture People's Party

Manifesto

*If you see teardrops on this paper it is the authors crying for the fate of Australia
in the hands of idiots...*

Permaculture People's Party

Manifesto

This memorandum records some of the early thoughts on what a policy for Permaculture graduates might look like.

It will be available initially at this website and if it strikes a chord with Permaculture graduates they can join the political party, or we would welcome additions in specific area.

Bill Mollison, April 2008

If you wish to lodge information, give comments or suggestions or have an enquiry, please contact Tamara Griffiths, PPP convenor, at Tamara@moonrisepermaculture.com.au

Membership forms can be downloaded from the AEC site
http://www.aec.gov.au/pdf/party_reg/handbook/political_parties_reg_handbook_2005_app05.pdf

The party name is "Permaculture People's Party"
Send your completed forms to 31 Rulla Road, Sisters Creek, Tasmania 7325.
Once we have 500 members, we can form a party. Hooray!

Poisons

There is no need to use poisons.

Laws should apply to all people, from the Prime Minister to public servants to the cleaner in parliament – particularly those on public money, for example forestry workers using poisons, effecting water supply and food, and agricultural or wildlife officers laying poisons on broad scale, without public notice or spraying crops with biocides without our knowledge. Government agencies that carry out poisonings where the public can not see or know about must stop.

We will gather case histories of misuse of sprays and poisons. The case histories will be lodged with the PPP and periodically published and made available to everybody. We will identify specific operators; those who made, sold or advised on the use of poisons, and close them down.

We will create a list of non poisonous approaches to problems. A register of “benign solutions” will be published and made available to everybody.

1080 (1980 - 2000) (a poem to inorganic forestry in Tasmania)

Translucent, odourless, tasteless
So that apples although soaked still
Taste appley, carrots carroty.
And are sought out by
Wombats, kangaroos, wallaby, potoroo
Currawong and cockatoos
This list of victims like a dictionary of
Aboriginal Onomatopoeia or a paeon for the dead.

The kill, says the forester,
Was about 70,000 in one place, in another
One hundred thousand or more !

And of course as death approached,
Thirst increased and almost all of them finally drown
Trying to drink, unsteady, dying
Shoals of corpses, waterfalls of bodies,
Log jams of legs, paws, feathers, eyes, tails
All washing down bit by bit
To town

A great post mortem migration
Of Tasmanian wildlife dissolving
Soggy, bald, sickening,
Sliming through pipes and taps to town
Courtesy of your government who are
Courtesy of you
Great breakers of law
All of you
Guilty, gutless greedy
Your punishment?
An eye for an eye, to drink the dead, all of them,

All the thousands of dead animals.

The End
Bill Mollison, April 2005

Forests

The value of a standing forest exceeds many times over that forest clear felled for woodchips or timber.

Economics

The amount of money needed to build roads into forests so trucks can enter to take away timber far exceeds that of the value of that timber.

The honey production of forest is worth more per acre than the whole forest converted into woodchips.

The fungi of a forest can be sustainably collected, sold and used for medicinal purposes as well as food. They have a high value.

The "One Tree Project" in Tasmania has shown that the value of one tree when turned into furniture and art is in excess of \$15 000. This far outweighs the value of this log used for woodchips.

Jobs

Whereas the forestry industry now employs 10 000 people, the micro management of the forest for its many products will employ many many more people.

All timber is owned by Gunns. Small mills can't buy logs. This means the closing of small industries and housing timber is no longer widely available. Spot mills can employ 5 people to cut 30 houses per week from 3 logs a day.

At the moment, the government gives 100% tax deduction of \$6000 per acre sold to Gunns. This policy of taking land from agriculture has reduced the food supply. Removal of spot mills has removed cheap housing and caused unemployment.

We will buy every remaining spot mill and instruct loggers to save the best logs for the spot mills. If they do not comply they will be charged.

Precipitation

Forests create precipitation. The government has allowed the removal of the forest but did not agree to the loss of removal of rainfall.

In Tasmania, for example, 87% of precipitation is condensation caused by trees. 13% is rainfall.

Forests on sea facing slopes convert night sea air into rainfall, seen in the water molecule H_2O^{18} . As we clear forests we cause rainfall to decline. This has been shown in research on rainfall in the Derwent Valley, Tasmania.

We will declare that all perennial forests on sea facing sloped are inviolable. They must never be destroyed.

Where forest has been destroyed on sea facing slopes, they should be replanted.

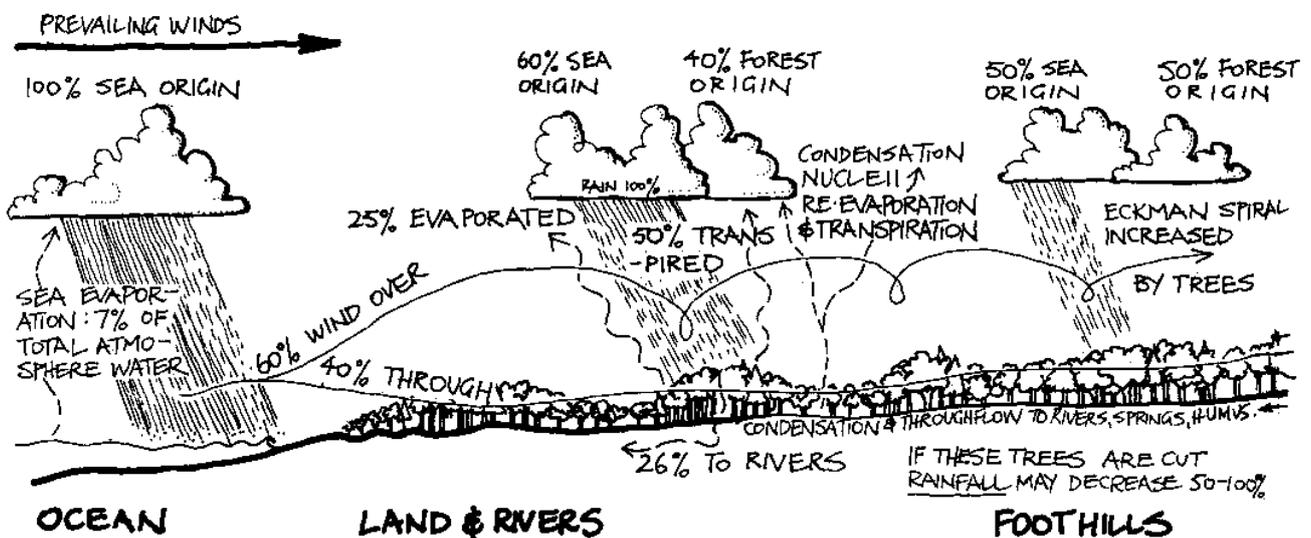


FIGURE 6.5
FOREST INTERACTIONS WITH CLIMATE. (Based on work in Brazil).

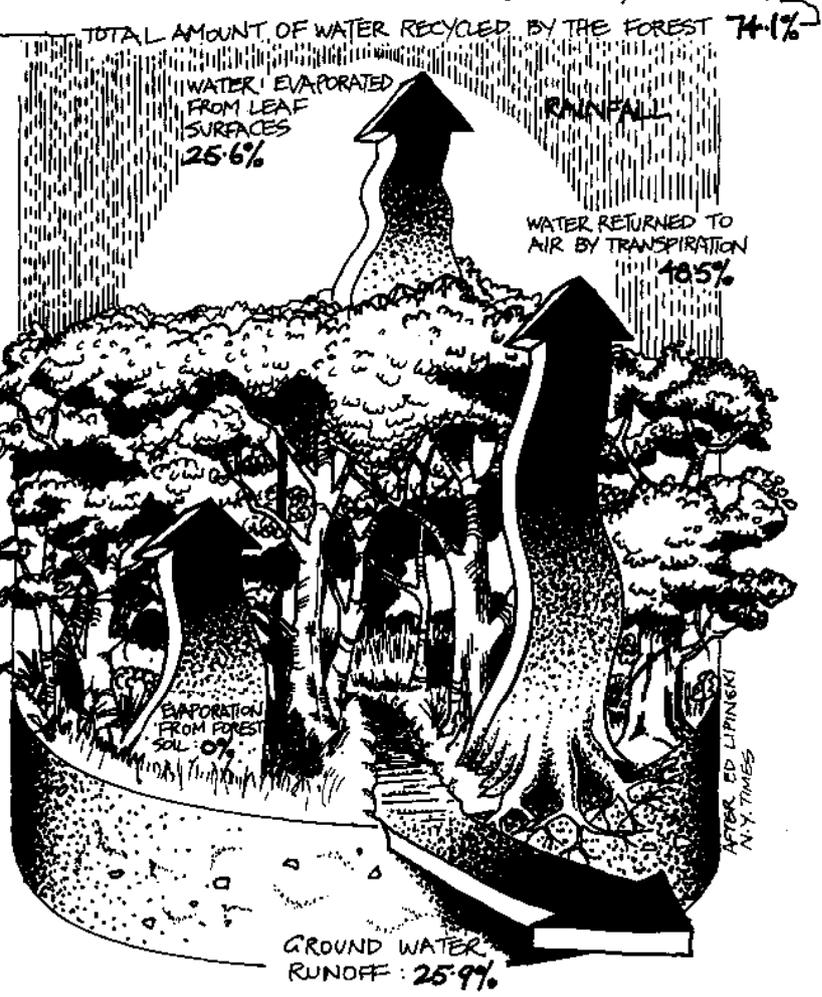
Forests inland produce most of the water for subsequent rainfall; recycled water is repeatedly transpired to the airstream.

See next page for complete image.

THE BIRTH OF CLOUDS:

WATER IS RETURNED TO THE AIR BY TREES HELPING CREATE CLOUDS.

TRANSPIRATION — THE RELEASE OF WATER THROUGH THE PORES OF TREES AND OTHER PLANTS — ACCOUNTS FOR UP TO HALF, OR EVEN MORE, OF ALL MOISTURE RETURNED TO THE AIR.



100% FOREST ORIGIN (CONTAINS ORGANIC NUCLEII AND PLANT NUTRIENTS).

15% FALLS AS RAIN AND SNOW

PERMANENT "CLOUD FOREST" ON PEAKS (STANDING CLOUD)

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

CONDENSATION AND STREAM FLOW.

85% CONDENSED IN TREES: MIST FORESTS

IF THESE TREES ARE CUT PRECIPITATION MAY DECREASE 80%.

IF THESE TREES ARE CUT, CLOUD MAY LIFT OFF MOUNTAINS (AS IN HAWAII) AND NO WATER WILL CONDENSE ON TREES MAKING REAFFORESTATION VERY DIFFICULT.

MOUNTAINS

Housing

Cheap housing

In the past, people had no trouble building a house affordably, buying their timber from local spot mills and building it themselves. A loan of \$12 000 could buy timber, roofing and fittings. Spot mills could employ 5 people and produce all the timber for 30 houses.

The cheap way for anybody who wants to a house is to work a week in a spot mill. Their timber will be dropped off to them and they will build the house themselves. People will be trained and supervised.

A second way to obtain a house is to work in a building co-op similar to the one in Maryborough, Victoria. In this, people form building groups, and work on each other's houses. After so many hours work on other people's houses, they are eligible for a house themselves. Again, people will be trained and supervised.

So housing can be obtained by

1. Working for a week in a spot mill
2. Be part of a building co-op

Energy efficient housing

We will make it illegal not to build energy efficient houses

All architecture students must learn the techniques of self-sufficient buildings. It remains to allow 12 – 14m² of garden (on roofs, or at ground level), and food, water, and energy are provided by buildings! Such a society can last forever, in comfortable and clean surroundings.

The *Designers Manual* has good examples of energy efficient homes and there is software in Australia such as AccuRate, NatHers and BERS that you can run your building plans through to see how well they rate. Houses that have a rating of 10 require no artificial heating or cooling. Houses below this star rating should not be built. This will force the end of the McMansion.

Houses can be retrofitted by using this software and using building resources such as:

<http://www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/index.htm>

The PPP will run a competition for young architects to design the cheapest and energy efficient houses. The designs will be published.

Dangerous housing

Some houses must be destroyed because they are made from unsafe materials such as radioactive granite and are dangerous to health. We must also be very careful where we build underground, due to radon levels.

The PPP will make Geiger counters available at a reasonable price so people can live safely. PPP members will have Geiger counters available for rent.

Aborigines

"If you haven't made it possible for a child to pick an orange every day, you haven't commenced."

The apology to aborigines by Kevin Rudd had not only relieved us all of a great guilt but is clearing the way to rehabilitation and reparation.

Our part to date consists of food gardens in settlements and outstations – some 40 places. The gardeners at Poverty Flat near Ceduna are possibly the world's best dry land gardeners.

We have had no problem supplying good quality food to the children and we know that HOME gardens are the answer to malnutrition.

We support the training of at-risk youth to form teams to install excellent food gardens at Aboriginal households, with automatic, low volume watering systems, so they are low maintenance.

We will place fruit trees, particularly orange and mandarins in home gardens.

We will offer Aboriginal students free courses in Permaculture design covering home gardens, nutrition, housing and dry land technology. Some of our Aboriginal students already have diplomas and they can supervise the courses as they are competent in nursery work.

Education for Aboriginal people should hone in on what it is that makes them sick as so many have chronic illness and many children have several.

Building the children a swimming pool seems to be everyone's aim. But pool water enables ear infection to proliferate, deafness spreads rapidly and many are functionally deaf with perforated eardrums.

We recognise the essential connection between land and people of the Aboriginal nations and will assist them to establish their rights over specified sites.

18% or more of bores have radioactive or harmful minerals and will cause more cancers and the failure of organs. Many bores have levels of salt above 2000ppm of salt, another cause of kidney breakdown. Aborigines need to be better equipped to test these bores or better still the roof areas and tanks that will catch rainwater.

We will close all radioactive bores in Aboriginal settlements and call the perpetrators to account. Water will be collected in tanks from suitably designed house roofs and tank making will be taught to Aboriginal fabricators.

Food

We believe all people should have access to affordable, organic and nutritious food.

We will encourage anybody who can produce such food and make sure they have access to markets.

Food testing authority

We shall assist the establishment of a sophisticated food testing authority.

This will remove food labelled organic, but actually is not grown using organic techniques. One example is "organic" food which has many times the nitrate levels for good health from the overuse of chook manure. Also, some people use the label organic, but do not observe organic practices.

We will require all food available for sale to be tested by a good laboratory. To be able to sell food, produce must test free of any dangerous substances or dangerous levels of any element.

Test results will be printed on labels. There is a working model in California that can be drawn upon.

We know that some onion crops are sprayed 30 times and that potato crops are sprayed 15 times and that many sprays are persistent or systemic and are present in every cell of the sprayed plant. Food poisoned by sprays with have the people who sold or suggested the sprays identified and closed down.

We support the choice in consumption of organic or inorganic food. Bill thinks that people who support in-organic agriculture should be force fed the food they spray, so they disappear sooner. Normal people who choose health will have the opportunity to obtain it.

Genetically modified food

We oppose genetically modified crops, originally because they are unnecessary, secondly because they give ownership of the crop to the genetic manipulator, although that crop has probably evolved by people unknown to that genetic manipulator. They own it, not the genetic manipulator.

Thirdly because the techniques recommended by Henry Kissinger to gain control of the population, using what he called "Zap Potential" of absolute control, so that people can grow but do not own their crop. And fourthly, we do not know if GM crops are safe to consume. We know that some are harmful.

Tax deductibility for sustainable farming only

We will remove tax deductibility for farm purchases for tree crops intended for pulping and transfer this tax advantage to people producing organic food.

We do not support non sustainable farming that is those that lay waste to soil and water systems, use inefficient growing methods or use chemical sprays for fertilisers. Tax deductability for these farmers should be removed. Tax deductibility is for people who are serving the public good, not those who are harming the public.

We support farmers who have triple bottom line accounting. In practical terms, this means expanding the traditional reporting framework to take into account environmental and social performance in addition to financial performance.

Gleaning

We will support gleaning systems for unwanted foodstuffs and again supply tax deductions for food donated to those systems.

This system will have three levels.

1. For the very poor, food will be free.
2. For the poor, food will be sold at a low price
3. The rest can be processed and sold for profit

Land for food

Land should be leased to people to grow food on. OXFAM in Britain runs a system whereby people with land or older people that can no longer maintain their gardens can sign a standard contract to allow people with none or insufficient land to grow food. They run lists in post offices and other public places where people can exchange their needs. OXFAM has a standard contract.

We will encourage PPP members to maintain such lists and oversee the signing of standard contracts.

Milk

We support herds of older breeds of "Type 2" milk (Jerseys, Dexters). "Type 2" milk does not cause heart attacks as the milk from Friesian cows does.

We believe that milk should be organic, non homogenised and non pasteurised and must be frequently tested by good laboratories.

People producing such milk will be eligible for tax-deductibility. People producing sheep and goat milk will also be eligible for this tax deductibility.

Nutrition

We will research, publish and make available lists of food that is very nutritious, needs least maintenance and uses the least amount of space. Quinoa for example is a grain that has sulphur amino acids and thus is a more complete protein than other grains.

Water

Swales

If we allow 100% for the water that fall on an area of land, probably 80% of this precipitation is as a result of condensation of moist air on leaves. Some countries measure both rainfall and condensation (South Africa and Tasmania).

If we allow 100% for precipitation, 88% of it runs off the land and goes into the sea or to inland depressions or evaporates, leaving only 12% for all the duties of water. This is the major waste of water.

If you survey dead level lines across the landscape at intervals not exceeding 100m and commencing at 2m below the top of the slope, then all the water that runs across the surface of the land will pool in channels dug along these lines, ranging from .5 to 3m width and .5 to 1.5 m deep, called swales. The spoil from this channel is piled on the lower lip of the swale.

If rain persists above 12mm in one hour, water flows across the lands and pools in the swales. No water leaves the property. Usually within 3 hours, all this water soaks in and is immune from evaporation or run off loss. That is the swale system affords a total water conservation of precipitation. No other system does this.

What is the ultimate use of this water? Modern swales in California within the settlement of Village Homes stored in their first year about 2m of saturated soil below the swale base. That is now some 18m deep, and we can expect all swales in effect to store vast quantities of water adjacent to the swale. After a few years, trees planted below the line of the swale are drought immune and add their share of condensation moisture to precipitation.

A landscape of swales and trees is in effect drought proof and eternally productive. Thus we believe that all such earthworks should be not only tax deductible but encouraged by all authorities in order to restore landscapes to health.

We have inspected 60 year old swales that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had people build through deserts, dug by FDR's corps of workers in the 1930's. They have never ceased to stabilise the dry lands evaporation and erosion and grow large trees.

A proportion of all state money should always go towards the construction of swales in cities and all farms. This we see as a national priority to off set desertification and global warming.

Swales need to be part of every subdivision plan and are easily placed in open forests because it is possible to dig above and below the survey line and thus around trees. The only places where swales are not recommended by us are the steep slump slopes of deforested basalt flows. These are liable to slump with high water content in the soil.

It is safe for wheeled tractors to create swales up to 12% slope. Above this they must be hand dug or made by crawler excavators.

We believe it is possible to restore the entire Murray – Darling system with a national swaling program for the system. This would be a permanent solution for river flow but would never cope with lavish irrigation of unsuitable crops such as rice and cotton.

In Tucson, Arizona, those gardens we have swaled from the downpipe are noticeably green while others are desert gardens.

Rainwater

Rainwater from roofs should be stored in large tanks for every house and impeding bylaws that prevent this should be nullified. Every building can supply its own water needs. Some commercial buildings can supply water for many homes.

We support a 100% government subsidy for the purchase, construction, fittings and associated plumbing services for rainwater tanks.

Wycheproof collects the water from all housing roofing and pumps it out to holding lagoons for public use. Ideally such lagoons should be roofed to prevent evaporation or covered with floating white blocks to reflect the sun, as in South Africa.

Civil Engineering

All civil engineers must be instructed on uses of swales to accept road run-off on both sides of the road to grow rows of trees as seen in Mexico, and NEVER to concentrate run-off in concrete pipes and shoot it down hill from the road. In this way they have created gullies by our roads. They must be directed to go back and swale all of our water. Every desert gulch has been created by civil engineers. Australia can not afford any such incidents. The civil engineer of Pt Augusta, South Australia, created swales and so this town looks like a forest when approached.

Education

We support the distribution of Permaculture principles starting with practical education of children ages 4 – 14. Food gardening needs to be part of every curriculum as does as efficient house design. It is not excessive to expect every house to produce 90% of its energy needs today.

Nursing, teaching and Permaculture design need to be on an equal footing as far as government support and fully paid HECS places are concerned.

Animal rights

In a Permaculture system, animals are used for their natural toil. Happy and healthy animals do the most work: Chickens scratch and dust bathe so are used to create veggie beds, Ducks love slugs and snails and are used instead of snail bait, Geese and Muscovy ducks mow vegetation; Pigs uproot a paddock full of blackberries. All of these can also be used for meat.

We support all ethical and organic keepers of animals, particularly rare breeds. The quickest and most humane killing method of each animal needs to be sought out and used.

Recreational shooting of native waterbirds is unnecessary and extremely harmful to biodiversity. We support a permanent ban, in all states.

Killing of pest animals such as foxes and wild boar can be done without poison, and as humanely as possible. Products from these animals can be used.

Energy

Wind power

Wind farms have become fairly common in advanced Countries. In Denmark, one large windmill is built after issuing 800 or so shares, the number of households that can be provided with power from a village machine. These shares, and up to 10m² of solar panels providing hot water and electricity are purchased by middle-aged couples to ensure free energy in their retirement. Most connect to the grid, and buy or sell energy as they have the need, or have surplus energy. They provide for their old age.

Solar Devices

Solar panels as hot water provided to insulated tanks, or as electrical generators, are becoming routine fixtures in modern societies; again, surplus electricity is sold to the local grid, and surplus heat is 'dumped' into hot water systems.

Geothermal

Deep drill-holes, sited over areas of volcanic heat or where the earth's crust is thin, convert water into steam for use in the heating of buildings, or in powering steam turbines for electrical production.

Hydro-electrical devices

From very small to very large, the power of falling water to spin turbines has long been harvested, and supplements other energy systems.

But since ancient times, water has been used to compress and store air ("isothermally-compressed"). All water that falls carries some air bubbles, and these rise much more slowly than the water falls, so that they can be carried down and released in large storage rooms or plenums some 200 or more metres below ground.

A conical device called a trompe bleeds high levels of air into water, for escape and storage at depth in carefully plastered (sealed) rooms. From there, small diameter pipes lead compressed air to surface work shops, to farm storage tanks, and to households where compressed air operates small electric generators, refrigerators and cool rooms and the whole array of compressed-air tools (presses, vices, spray applicators, sand-blasters etc. etc.)

Given a modest stream and a trompe, or successive trompes, very large quantities of compressed air can be stored. In 1930, all cars, trams, trains, and cool rooms in Paris and Chicago, were supplied by miners with trompes, operated on compressed air. Light motor vehicles with 7 to 10 h.p. slide valve steam engines with a working pressure of 40 p.s.i., could travel 100 or more kilometres on 2 cubic feet of air at 1500 p.s.i. held in a drawn-steel cylinder below the seat.

The exhaust gas was very cold air, directed to a hamper in the boot for the preservation of cold meats, cold drinks, and the like. Unlike electricity, compressed air loses little in transport, and until the fossil fuels displaced it. It has no poisonous fumes or explosive potential.

As well, the trompes are well developed, and the uses of compressed air tools also very sophisticated. Many trompes can be built in one stream, and form many reservoirs of compressed air.

Tidal Energies

The rise and fall of tides, the power tidal current delivers over "egg-beater" turbines are all little-developed sources of clean energy. In straits running east-west, the tidal flow is constantly to the west, and operates around the clock. Sub-sea "egg beaters" will provide constant energy for the generation of electricity or for the provision of compressed air.

Powerful currents sweep by reefs and islands at the west end of straits (Bass Strait in Australia is one of many good examples). Only a very little of these energies is harvested to date, but “ducks”, and compressed-air sausages for wave power are well developed, and it remains to tap the great power of confined currents for national energy grids.

Solar Energy

From modest “caravan power” for light and computers to very large static arrays of solar collectors on roof areas or as parabolic arrays for steam turbine development, solar devices are numerous; widely used, but at a small scale of the potential.

Areas of mirrors in steer-able arrays one to five km. square are needed to supply national grids and state energy systems. We need to break out of the small-scale installations that have previously made all clean power “uneconomic”.

Clean power is essential for life, and is only uneconomic if money is valued above life! Just as every house can harvest enough clean rainwater to supply the needs of the occupants, so every roof can collect the energy needed to fuel the house and supplement a national grid. It simply remains to make water collection and energy collection a compulsory part of architecture; to develop climate control in building using the air from earth tunnels to cool or heat rooms, and “day-night” fans to heat or cool the fabric of buildings.

In civilised societies, it is already legislated that buildings should never be permitted western windows, nor can large unshaded areas of car parks be built. Both call for too much summer heat to be offset, needlessly. It is past-time to legislate for domestic and urban energy and water storage.