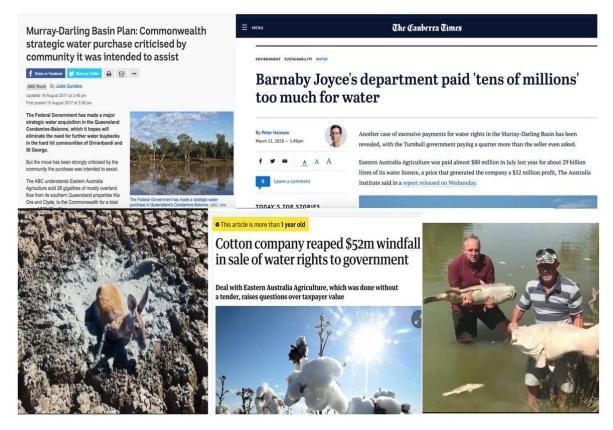
Thread:

Money For Nothing (and your tricks for free)

#MurrayDarling #Menindee #MDBA #auspol#TheBarnabyfiles #fishkill

Story research - @jommy_tee



So we're back on the farm this month & here's another great yarn we found.

It's about the unbelievable luck of one of the Liberal Party's rising stars, his mysterious business connections in the Cayman Islands & the water we all paid for but never got.

Let's call him Mr X.

But first let's go back to 2007 & Howard's announcement he'd spend \$10 billion to buy back water/environmental flows for the #MurrayDarling basin

Now \$10 billion is a lot of money, so when some large corporate farm types heard about this,

HOME / ABOUT PARLIAMENT / PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS / PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY / RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS / RESEARCH PAPERS INDEX PAGI PLAN FOR WATER SECURITY

National Plan for Water Security

Bill McCormick
Science, Technology, Environment and Resources Section

Introduction

The National Plan for Water Security[1]

was outlined by Prime Minister Howard in his address to the Press Club on 25 January 2007. It will be implemented with \$10 billion being provided over a ten year period. The aim is to increase production with less water use and improving environmental outcomes. Aspects include: modernisation of irrigation and addressing over allocation of water in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB); investing in information and monitoring; new governance for water management in the MDB and acceleration of the National Water Initiative implementation.[2] There is also funding to complete the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative and allow a Taskforce to examine further land and water development in Northern Australia.

At the water summit of 23 February 2007, NSW, South Australia and Queensland agreed to refer relevant constitutional powers to the Commonwealth to enable it to manage the MDB in the national interest and the ACT agreed to cooperate fully.

None more so than the Liberal's rising star Mr X, who back then was just another mild-mannered white guy from a wealthy farm family.

Back in 2007 he had his fingers in a hell of a lot of pies.

He still does.

's involvement with EAA also continued beyond 2009 and extended at least until 2010 when the management of the two properties was undertaken by Agricultural Managers Limited (AML) acting on the behalf of EAA.

AML just happens to be another company registered in 2007 in the tax haven of the Cayman Islands and according to ASIC's records the company is identified as a non-registered entity in Australia.

A search of media articles over that time period reveals that was identified as a director at AML. In March 2010, when the huge Cubbie station, the neighbouring property bordering EAA's Clyde farm, was offered for sale, was interviewed as a director of AML.

At the time of the interview AML were being cast as a potential buyer of Cubbie. ASIC records indicate that was both secretary and sole director of another company, Agriculture Managers (Australia) Pty Limited (AMAL), during the period 9 November 2009 to 21 October 2012.

AMAL was incorporated in 2009 and deregistered in 2012 on the same dates as the same dates as the same dates as the same dates.

had a role in establishing and co-founding the Cayman Islands-based AML, however ASIC records reveal that in registering AMAL in his name, the application stated that the parent company of AMAL was the Cayman's based AML.

Will the company have an ultimate holding company upon registration? Yes If yes, provide the following details of the ultimate holding company Company name Agricultural Managers Limited ACN/ARBN/ABN Country of incorporation (if not Australia) Cayman Islands

Use this section to notify the name and	address c	of each person	who consents to become	a member.		
If shares are jointly owned, provide name	es and ad	ddresses of all j	joint - owners on a separa	ate sheet (annexur	e), clearly indicating the share class	
Please complete a separate section b	elow for	each member				
Member details and shareholding Indicate whether the member is an individual or a company and provide the: name of the individual or company address of the individual or company; and shareholding.		Family name		Given na	Given names	
		OR Company nan	me			
		Agricultural M	lanagers Limited	·		
		ACN/ARBN/A	BN			
Address of individual or company	Offic	e, unit, level, or	r PO Box number			
	Walker House					
	Street number and Street name					
	87 Mary Street					
	Suburb/City State/Te				State/Territory	
	George Town				Grand Cayman	
	Postcode KY1-9002		Country (if not Australia)			
			Cayman Islands			

Before that though, Mr X worked with consulting firm McKinsey & Co doing multi-million \$ projects with another man called Tony Reid.

In fact, our rising star Mr X & Tony Reid were such great mates they started their own company together in 1998.

(Remember this detail)

In 2007/8, our rising star Mr X knew a good business opportunity when he saw it.

He knew farming water & its buybacks were going to be very lucrative.

So when he saw 2 huge farms for sale in southern QLD with millions of \$\$ of water rights on them, Mr X looked into them.

They even sought input from a senator friend who was based in the region and who knew all about water rights and irrigation because his campaign had largely been financed by them — Barnaby Joyce.

So in late 2007, Mr X & his mates set up a company - we'll call it Company E.



Company E bought those 2 huge irrigation farms - "Clyde" for \$27 million, "Kia Ora" for \$61 million.

That's quite a splurge. You'd want your money back, right?

The problem for poor old Mr X & his Company E was, the farms weren't as profitable as they thought.

But by now the govt had changed to Labor who decided to do small, strategic buybacks of water for the environment.

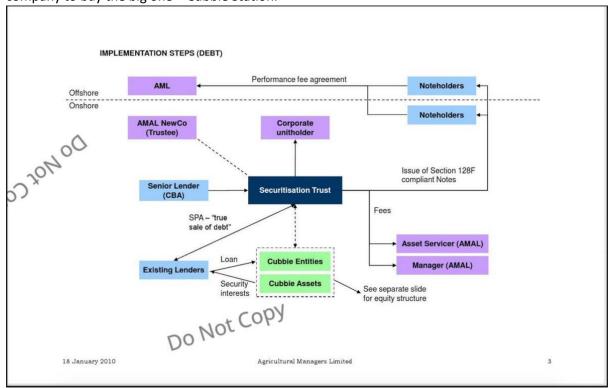
Our rising star Mr X offered his spare millions of litres of water to the Labor govt, but the govt said no.

So - they put the 2 farms back on the market.

- Together in the 2010/2011 season these properties are producing around 11,000 Ha of cotton. In 2008, EAA sold 10,433 ML of temporary water from its Clyde property to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC), which was let go to deliver water to Narran lakes to facilitate a breeding event already under way.
- EAA has to date made multiple applications to offer entitlements under the Restoring the Balance to the Murray-Darling Basin program, involving unsupplemented water entitlements at Clyde

But there were no takers and by 2010/11, both our massive cotton farms Kia Ora & Clyde were losing about \$5-10 million a year.

Despite that, our rising star Mr X was still interested in water & money because he set up another company to buy the big one – Cubbie Station.



We might have forgotten to mention Mr X is very big on setting up companies.

Especially in the Cayman Islands.

Although his position today is a respectable politician who likes to rail against tax avoiders \$\frac{1}{4}\$- Mr X is

strangely fond of the Caymans for himself & his friends.

Two NSW men have each been sentenced to seven years' jail after another successful Serious Financial Crime Taskforce investigation. The SFCT is delivering real results bit.ly/2nrSyQw @KellyODwyer



But by 2012 Mr X's mind was on other things and he'd decided that politics was his game.

He began to donate a lot of money to the Liberal Party.

By a strange coincidence, there was also another donation to his campaign for the NSW Libs that year.

It came from a business in the QLD National Party seat of Maranoa.

Strange you say?

Yes because the $$55,000 (1 \times $20K + 1 \times $35K)$ donation came from Company E, which in 2011 had welcomed a new Director - our old mate Tony Reid.

Donor Annual Return - 2012-13

Eastern Australia Agriculture Pty Limited

450 Whyendah Road ST GEORGE QLD 4487

Donations made to:

Name	Address	Date	Value	
Liberal Party of Australia, NSW	Locked Bag 2	13 Jul 2012	\$20,000.00	
Division	KINGS CROSS NSW 1340			

Returns submitted for Financial Year 2012-13	Date	Туре	
RLXX5 Original Return 📙	05 Nov 2013	Donor	

Returns submitted in other financial years or a different type of Return in this financial year:

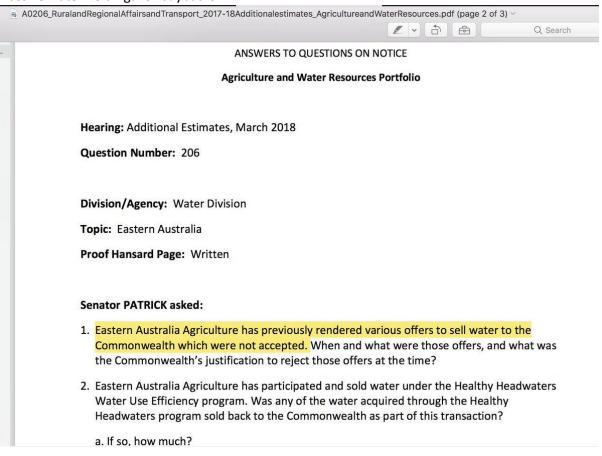
Name	Financial year	Туре	
Eastern Australia Agriculture Pty Limited	2013-14	Donor	

So Mr X gets himself elected to the House of Reps & as luck would have it, so does Mr X's friend Barnaby Joyce.

Barnaby's a rising star too.

In the meantime, Company E's still struggling with Clyde & Kia Ora & they've again offered their

massive water holdings for buybacks.



But the Environment Minister Greg Hunt says no.

You could forgive Hunt for being a bit confused because the Liberals are about to be riven by leadership disputes.

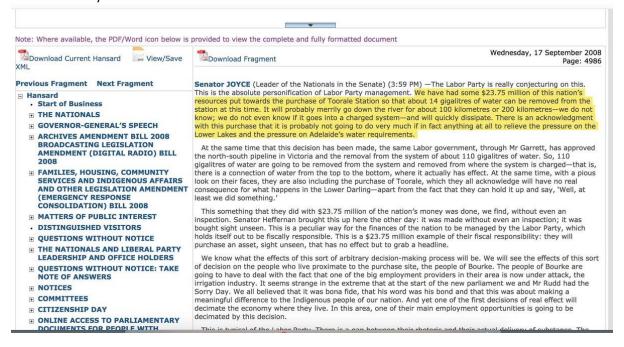
Come 2015 & Abbott is rolled for Turnbull. As part of the spoils, Barnaby is Minister for . . .



Now Barnaby Joyce has always roared his opposition to water buy-backs. He claims they ruin rural communities and make small families destitute.

Here's Barnaby on the record in 2008 railing against a federal govt \$24 million buyback.

No. Water. Buybacks.



And again in Senate Estimates in 2011 verballing Penny Wong about her evil ways of buying back water for the environment.

So we've established well & truly Barnaby hates & detests water buybacks for the environment

Barnaby does not believe in them

It's a well known fact

```
Senator Wong -No, it is not. It is not. If you were to go out there and say that, you would be telling that which is
not true. You would be saying things which are not true. This reform does require politicians to actually look at what is
needed and not simply tell people-
 Senator JOYCE —I have heard that before.
 Senator Wong —It is true. Do you not think there is a need to reduce the take out of the basin?
 Senator JOYCE —I think there needs to be a lot more diligence than paying $303 million to one family for water
licences that are way over the market-
  Senator Wong —I notice you do not answer the question.
 Senator JOYCE —while purchasing another place such as Toorale Station which you did not even have the
competence to go and inspect.
 Senator Wong — Every time I ask a question about water purchase or returning water to the river or reducing—
 Senator JOYCE —I am just asking if you are competent.
 Senator Wong -I notice that you do not answer. I notice you do not answer and I notice-
 Senator JOYCE -I know why I read on the front page the Financial Review that you paid over $40 million more
than you should have-$40 million of taxpayers' money.
 Senator Wong -You do not answer the core question in your-
 Senator JOYCE —It goes to the core of your competency.
  Senator Wong -No. The core question in your portfolio is whether you are prepared-
 Senator JOYCE —It goes to the core of your competency about how you perform in this portfolio—
 Senator Wong —to return water to the Murray-Darling. Are you prepared—
 Senator JOYCE —Whether you have the capacity to understand the value of water and what you are exactly doing.
 Senator Wong —to return water to the Murray-Darling Basin? Are you prepared to return water to the basin?
 Senator JOYCE —Are you competent enough to buy things at the right price?
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Meanwhile, Company E's 2 farms Clyde & Kia Ora are bleeding money

Their debts to their Caymans parent company are almost \$80 million. Gobsmacking right?

And in an astonishing about-face, Barnaby the Water Minister suddenly discovers he likes water buybacks after all

Suddenly, it's Barnaby of the Overflow.

Barnaby's people – without any tender – inexplicably start to deal with people working on behalf of Company E.

You remember Tony Reid?

Tony is now working as an advisor to Company E for the sale of the multi-million dollar water.

We look forward to discussing this offer with you. We can assure you that should you wish to pursue it;

- 1. The DNRM will be happy to confirm the MAD estimates contained
- 2. We are able to act quickly (and indeed would need to do so)
- 3. We will work closely with DAWR to position any public release of information about the sale

Yours sincerely

Matthew Bickford-Smith

CC.

cc. Dr. Tony Reid - Advisor to Eastern Australia Irrigation Pty Ltd

cc. Connor Maloney - Director, Eastern Australia Irrigation Pty Ltd

Those three documents are letters dated 9 February 2016, 22 March 2017 and 7 April 2017 from Matthew Bickford-Smith, Director of EAA, and addressed to Mary Colreavy, an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. In the first letter, Tony Reid is copied in as "Advisor to Eastern Australia Agriculture Pty Ltd". In the subsequent

Yes, while Mr X's mate Tony is negotiating with the federal government, Mr X's mate Tony is also still happily running a company with Mr X – who is now a Minister in the federal government.

How very fortunate.

That's not the only stench

Shonky consultants give shonky advice (they all worked in the same office) & the govt's own department ABARE states the water is virtually worthless - as it doesn't really exist

The "water" Company E is selling, is flood water

Ghost water

In August 2017 the property KiaOra sold overland flow water to the Government for an amount of around \$38million. In the media statement released, Barnaby Joyce Said this sale would come with flood mitigation benefits to St George as this sale required the removal/modifications to structures.

David Littleproud also said in a Queensland Country Life story on this sale that he believed the structures were causing the floodwaters to back up and the removal would give St George flood mitigation benefits and allow flood waters to get away quicker. I have inquired through Local, State (Jim Weller -DNRM Toowoomba) and Federal - Barnaby Joyce and David Littleproud if any hydraulic study or checks have been done to see if the flood mitigation benefits exist or if the water sold will be allowed to run freely across the floodplains back into the river. I've been told no such study or checks had been done as of January this year.

We have never been compensated for any flood damages or loss regarding these increased flood heights, while KiaOra has made millions selling this same water...water that is only there during a massive flood.

For the last 8 years I have emailed/phoned all levels of Government, attended MDB meetings and made submissions. All replies have been along the lines of passing the buck to another level. With the regulations on levees being brought in In 2014 I was in the hope that this wouldn't happen to anyone else in QLD, but it appears it has as similar flooding has occurred on a property near Toobeah in the Goondiwindi Shire, with similar bullying tactics used on that family.

It is extremely disheartening to see EAA make so much money out of a water sale that has been classed as "goanna water" while we have been reduced to near poverty.

That's not how you haggle....

Commonwealth water purchasing in the Condamine Balonne

The Australian Government bought 29 gigalitres of water for \$80m in the Condamine-Balonne valley.

The vendors originally insisted on \$2,200 per megalitre. But after negotiation, the Government paid a higher price - \$2,745 per megalitre. Worse, the water has no legal status outside the farm gate and shouldn't be counted towards the water recovery target.

It's water that only gets trapped on farms in a flood every 10 years or so.

But Barnaby thinks it's the greatest deal ever.

Despite the water being non-existent & despite it only being valued at \$1200-1500 a megalitre (I million litres), Barnaby pays \$2750 a meg.

"[It] appears that [the department] paid tens of millions of dollars too much," the report said.

The lower security of the water - for so-called Over Land Flow licences - highlighted the overpayment since the water can't be traded with other landholders and is legally attached to the land itself.

"If the water ever flows off the property, it can be captured by adjoining properties, such as Cubbie Station," Maryanne Slattery, senior researcher at The Australia Institute, said.

"So, it is unlikely that the water can actually be used for the environment at all," Ms Slattery said.

To: Colreavy, Mary

Subject: Re: Information request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Mary,

Thanks for your email - my turn to apologise for a slow reply.

We have some more questions in relation to the Commonwealth's purchase of water from Kia Ora and Clyde. The recent Order for Production of documents (no. 579) moved by Senator Rex Patrick included a document from GI Irrigation, which suggested the removal of sections of levee banks at Kia Ora. We have examined images from Google Earth Pro at the locations identified by GI Irrigation, which appear to be unchanged from well before DAWR purchased the water until now. Can you please advise when the decommissioning of the works occurred? You have explained that there is a report which includes an engineer's certification that the banks at Kia Ora were decommissioned. Could you provide us with a copy of that report and could you please explain why that report was not included in the recent Order for Production of documents (no. 579) moved by Senator Rex Patrick? Our understanding of the overland flow licences are that water is either retained on the property, or it flows to a lower part of the floodplain or into a river.

If the floodplain structures are unchanged, then the water is retained on the property. Has DAWR negotiated with Eastern Australia Agriculture about the removal of any structures at the Clyde property? If not, how does DAWR anticipate how the water associated with the over land flow licences purchased from the Clyde property can be delivered for environmental outcomes?

Our understanding of the Kia Ora property is the area where the banks were supposed to be decommissioned are at the northern end of the property and that any water that is not captured within the decommissioned banks are either likely to be captured on the southern part of Kia Ora, or to be captured at Cubbie Station. How does DAWR anticipate how the water purchased from the Kia Ora property can be delivered for environmental outcomes? Thank you very much for your help with this,

RELATED ARTICLE



So just to recap:

A man who ran a business with a federal government minister, at the same time acted as an advisor in a multi-million dollar transaction with the federal government, in a deal with a company the same federal government minister had founded and ran and that was registered in the Cayman Islands.

And another federal minister paid them millions of tax payer's \$\$ for the product in that multi-million dollar transaction – money that disappeared back to the Caymans.

And the product did not even exist.

Got that?

Back to poor old Company E

They'd fallen to an after-tax loss of \$13.19m in 2017, a fall from its loss of \$7.14m in 2016

The company was saddled with net current liabilities that included convertible notes of \$69.484m & a promissory note of \$11m due to its parent company.

So - Company E's debt was over \$80 million.

But by 2017, the Water Minister's purchase of water-that-didn't-exist luckily came through.

And the final amount Barnaby Joyce paid for that fake water purchase from Company E?

\$80 million.



How lucky was Company E?

Its Cayman's directors must have been delighted because not only did they get money for water that didn't exist, they also didn't fully demolish the farm dams that trapped the flood water.

So they can still trap water again

All \$80 million of it

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio

Senator Rex Patrick: asked the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on 2 March 2018—

- 1. Eastern Australia Agriculture has previously rendered various offers to sell water to the Commonwealth which were not accepted. When and what were those offers, and what was the Commonwealths justification to reject those offers at the time?
- 2. Eastern Australia Agriculture has participated and sold water under the Healthy Headwaters Water Use Efficiency program. Was any of the water acquired through the Healthy Headwaters program sold back to the Commonwealth as part of this transaction?
 - 1. If so, how much?
 - 2. What was the price per megalitre paid for the water acquired through the Healthy Headwater program?
- 3. Were the levees at Kia Ora decommissioned?
 - 1. Did the Department undertake any due diligence on the decommissioning of those banks?
 - 2. If so, what evidence was used to establish that the levees were decommissioned?
 - 3. What safeguards are in place to ensure that levees cannot be reinstated?

Answer —

See attached



Irrigation in Australia has come under greater scrutiny after a series of revelations about high-cost water buybacks.

Not only did the company retain more water than it sold from properties on the Condamine Balonne Valley of southern Queensland, it also held on to a dam that it had valued at \$16 million and had offered as part of the deal, the institute found, based on information obtained by an Order for Production of Documents by Nick Xenophon Team senators.

Senator Rex Patrick noted the institute's comparison to a Monty Python haggling skit but said "if it wasn't so serious, it would be funny".

And the best part is, Company E – could now pay out its parent company (No tax on the earnings. Such luck)

That parent company by the way is called Eastern Australia Irrigation Ltd.

It has a complex set up & share holders & naturally, it's registered in the Cayman Islands.

The EF Realisation Fund - a major equity holder in EAI - even boasted to the London Stock Exchange on 22 January 2018:

"During the summer of 2017, Australian Government authorities approached EAI with an offer to acquire some of its water entitlements. EAI was able to negotiate the price for the water entitlements to the highest level ever paid, and in August 2017 it completed the largest ever sale of water entitlements in the Murray Darling River Basin."

Who started Eastern Australia Irrigation Ltd though?

How did this company get to be so fortunate with million \$ water sales?

Its founder is touted as a future Prime Minister, dislikes wind farms, loves coal mines & it would appear - money from strange places.

The co-founder & original director of Eastern Australia Irrigation Ltd is the very same man who also coincidentally started Company E.



Twitter - meet Mr X.



Party positions

- Member, Liberal Party Finance Committee (NSW) 2008-12
- Secretary, Coalition Policy Committee on Employment from 2013

Personal

- Born 30.9.1966, Cooma, Australia
- Married

Qualifications and occupation before entering Federal Parliament

- · B.Ec (Syd)
- LL.B (Syd)
- · M.Phil Economics (Oxford)
- · Rhodes Scholar
- · Partner, McKinsey and Co 1994-2001
- Co-founder, shareholder and adviser, Farm Partnerships Australia and Growth Farms Australia from 1998
- Programme director, Rabobank's Farm Leadership Programmes from 1998
- · Director, Port Jackson Partners from 2002
- Co-founder and director, Eastern Australia Irrigation from 2007

This thread was a team effort. It was compiled from research conducted predominantly by <u>@jommy_tee</u> and myself (to a lesser extent) and an anonymous insider whistleblower.

Media or general enquiries to @jommy tee

It has been pointed out to us that some of the technical data on this thread was compiled by Maryanne Slattery of The Australia Institute. I was not aware of this report when we started, but as you will see on reading, there is some amazing work in it. > tai.org.au/sites/defualt/...

Sorry - Maryanne can be contacted on twitter at <a>@MaryanneSlatte1 for any media enquiries or research data.

Missing some Tweet in this thread? You can try to force a refresh.

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