



"There shall be ... a way"
A HISTORY OF THE ENGINEERING AND WATER
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

by

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SYNOPSIS

The South Australian experience has been different. So many facets of today's mosaic have their roots in the nature and values of the early white settlement. The colonists were idealistic about the future. There would be greater opportunities, fairer systems and guaranteed freedoms. If there were problems there would always be a way to solve them.

The dryness and uncertain water supplies soon put the colonists to the test. Few were prepared to lead in the matter. Inevitably the responsibility fell to the central Government, the pattern of administration having been centralized from the start. Responsible Government, after all, was seen by the colonists as the means of shaping the future for the benefit of all.

As the colony developed and settlement flourished the Government's role in the field was reinforced time and again. Only the Government could mobilize the finance needed to build the large-scale schemes which finite catchment areas dictated.

At times there were too many organizations with overlapping fields of jurisdiction. And there was waste and mismanagement. But the people retained their faith in the quest for good government. More often than not their expectations were rewarded.

Ultimately the administration of State water resource activities was placed in the hands of a single body - the Engineering and Water Supply Department. It was clearly the rational step to take as the limited nature of supplies, and the interrelationships between them became fully known. The State's continuing involvement through one organization ensures the treatment of all aspects of water resources as a unified whole. The future lies in the hands of the people.

Most Australian states have two or more organizations involved in the water resource field. South Australia's pattern of total water resource management is therefore unique. She has tailored it to meet her limitations and needs. A way has been found ...

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

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ABBREVIATIONS

S.A.A.	South Australian Archives
G.R.G.	Government Record Group
P.P.	Parliamentary Paper
C.S.O.	Chief Secretary's Office
C.P.W.	Commissioner of Public Works
E.O.	Engineer-in-Chief's Department
H.E.	Hydraulic Engineer's Department
C.W.	Conservator of Water's Department
C.L.	Crown Lands Department
L & S	Lands and Surveys Department
E. & W.S.	Engineering and Water Supply Department
