



FUTURE OF OUR WATER?

WATER FROM THE AIR

You can't squeeze blood from a stone but wringing water from the desert sky is now possible.

US researchers say people living in dry, drought-ridden areas may soon be able to get water straight from a source that is all around them - the air.

Earth's atmosphere contains an estimated 13,000 trillion litres of water that is untapped. This is equivalent to nearly 10 per cent of all fresh water present in lakes worldwide.

A team of researchers in the US recently announced that they had developed a solar-powered box that could convert low-humidity air into water, producing several litres every 12 hours.

The new technology, developed by scientists at MIT and the University of California at Berkeley, could provide a novel way of obtaining clean, fresh water almost anywhere on Earth.

Technologies already exist for extracting water from very moist air, such as fog harvesting systems that have been deployed in a number of coastal areas. And there are very expensive ways of removing moisture from drier air.

But the researchers say the new method is the first with the potential for widespread use in virtually any location, regardless of humidity levels.

THE SEQ WATER GRID

After the Millennium Drought in South East Queensland, the State Government invested in one of the most advanced and effective water infrastructure projects in the world – The South East Queensland Water Grid.

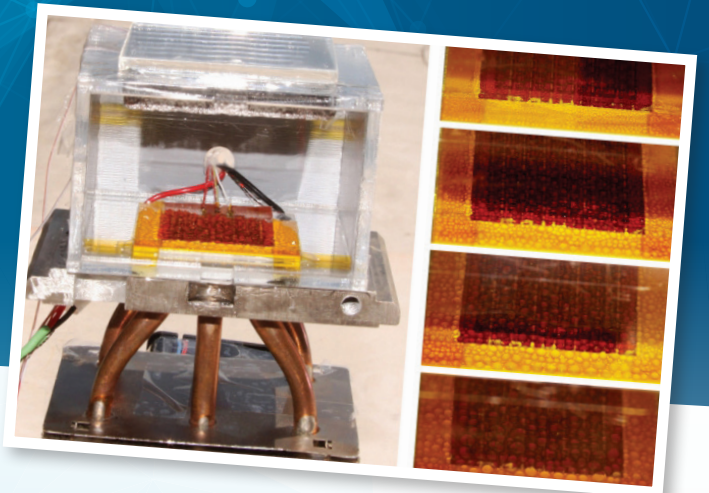
The grid consists of more than 600 kilometres of bulk water supply pipelines that enable treated water to be moved around the region.

Before building the Water Grid, South East Queensland's water came from eight different water supply zones with no ability to share water. So if water storage dams were low in one area and high in another, there was no way to move that precious resource around.

The Water Grid has proven its ability to help keep our water flowing time and again. By tapping in to different water sources, we have maintained our water supply during times of water scarcity and flooding.

Most parts of the region now have one or more back-up options for bulk water supply.

The success of the Water Grid has gained international attention. One of South Korea's major television networks has even filmed the grid for a documentary on strategies used by different countries to deal with drought.



ACTIVITY

The year is 2040 and the world is facing a global water crisis.

You have been asked by the United Nations to come up with an idea to help solve the water shortage problem.

In the space provided, draw a picture of how you would solve the water crisis and describe your solution in a few lines.

Take a photo and send images to media@seqwater.com.au before Friday 1 September 2017 and Seqwater will feature its favourite on Facebook.

