

From: Islands2050
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Concern Regarding Ban on Desalination

From: Rohan Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 2:41 PM
To: SSIInfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Concern Regarding Ban on Desalination

Good afternoon,

I sent the inquiry below to MLA Olsen and his office has encouraged me to reach out to Islands Trust directly to seek answers to the questions in my final paragraph. In particular, I have the following questions:

- 1) Can you share with me the reasoning behind the proposed ban on desalination equipment?
- 2) Has there been any public discussion or debate of the desalination provisions to date? If so, when and where?
- 3) Who introduced the desalination clauses into the proposed policy statement?

Thank you,
Rohan Hill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rohan Hill [REDACTED]
Date: Thu., Jun. 17, 2021, 4:50 p.m.
Subject: Concern re: Islands Trust Policy Statement - Ban on Desalination
To: <Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Good afternoon MLA Olsen,

I was very concerned to learn this afternoon that a revised Islands Trust Policy Statement is being rushed to first reading, and it includes a prohibition on private desalination equipment for potable water.

Water security is an important issue and one that is likely to grow in significance in the coming years. The proposed policy statement (https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/TPC_2021-06-15_SM_AGD-PKG_FINAL.pdf) seeks to ban desalination equipment, yet I was unable to find any accompanying rationale or surrounding discussion for this prohibition. The only hint of an explanation is in the language of the prohibition itself, namely, the wording "*due to to their high energy demands*".

This is a peculiar statement to read in a document that is intended to remain in force until 2050. Consumer desalination equipment is becoming increasingly less power hungry, and renewable power sources like solar and wind are becoming increasingly more efficient and less expensive.

Even with just current technology, a waterfront lot could purchase a home desalination system that produces 1 gallon per minute of fresh water, for about \$10k. In a few minutes of research online I was about to find the ECHOTec 1500-BHL-4. That particular unit requires 2,200 watts, which can be supplied by a very modest solar array, costing probably not more than a further \$5k. Even if the total cost doubled after factoring in installation, \$30k for fresh water that is desalinated from the ocean using renewable power is a great environmentally friendly option. Even at today's cost, \$30k is a realistic option for fresh water, and is not significantly more expensive than drilling a well. Plus, desalination technology is only getting better and cheaper. Desalination strikes me as an excellent potential solution to fresh potable water concerns, and while it may not be the answer in every situation (it wouldn't work for me, because I don't have waterfront access), to ban it as a possible tool seems foolish. Why would we tie our hands when it comes to future potable water supply options? Why would we prevent homeowners and prospective homeowners from choosing the source of water that makes sense for them, their properties, and their budgets?

Can you please share with me the reasoning behind the proposed ban on desalination equipment? Has there been any discussion or debate of these provisions to date? Who introduced these clauses into the proposed policy statement?

Regards,
Rohan Hill
Salt Spring Island