

**From:** JEANNE CRERAR [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** Response to Policy 2050 ( Desalination)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

August 31, 2021

To the Islands Trust Executive:  
Chair Peter Luckham  
Vice Chair Sue Allen Fast  
Vice Chair Laura Patrick  
Vice Chair Dan Rogers

Re: The Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement.

The draft Policy that states that desalination of sea water not be allowed in the Islands Trust area should be removed.

We represent a long established water system, The Lyall Harbour Boot Cove Water System, on Saturna Island. The system has been under the auspices of the Capitol Regional District for the last 40 years, and it serves 153 lots on Saturna Island.

As well as residential service, major commercial and recreational centres on the island are served by this system: the General Store, two cafes, Health Clinic, commercial offices, pub/ restaurant, Camp Ground business, Community Hall, B.C. Ferries Dock, Federal Dock, and the Recreation Center including Parks Canada. The water system is based on a reservoir, known as Money Lake and is crucial to the existence of the Saturna Island Community. Discussion about the future needs of our system are always part of the committee's work.

The apparent global weather change and the lack of knowledge to this end suggests that Gulf Islands might have to rely on desalination to sustain the present population as well as the future needs. We understand having policy about by-products of desalination and the need to ensure the process does not disturb the health of our oceans; but simply not allowing it is very short sighted.

We were also disappointed to see no policy to encourage roof and rainwater catchment. The recycling of uncontaminated waste water especially for watering food gardens should be encouraged. Many Gulf Islands communities have taken on initiatives to encourage self-sufficiency in food production in community gardens, and rainwater catchment lends itself to these projects as well as to residential gardens.

The Lyall Harbour-Boot Cove Water System utilizes catchment of surface water and does not draw from the deep groundwater aquifer. There is limited knowledge of the extent of this resource in the Trust area.

As it exists, your policy is forcing the use of deep ground water instead of broadening the horizons to alternate sources of water. There are huge steps forward in modern technology, especially in desalination, and it is used successfully in many parts of the world.

The catchment and use of rainwater is also an old and tried source of water. Gulf Islands climate lends itself very well considering the annual rainfall especially in the winter months.

Please reconsider your policy around sources of potable water. Water committees in the Gulf Islands need policy that looks into the future from the view of the residents and their communities; policy that looks towards new technology to help us best serve our communities and the land we live on.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Crerar  
Chair Lyall Harbour-Boot Cove Water Committee Saturna Island

Copy: Paul Brent, Lee Middleton, Saturna Island Trustees