



Our Ref: KT:GB:355  
Enquiries: Mr K Trotter

26 November 2007

Dr Lorraine Abernethie  
Principle Research Officer  
Economics and Industry Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Abernethie

Thank you for inviting the City of Geraldton Greenough to make a submission to the Parliamentary enquiry into water licensing and services

The City is unaware of the actual cost of licensing and administrating the current water license system, therefore the following comments are made in very general terms:

1. It is acknowledged that there should be a cost for the extraction of ground water and that the cost should include issues such as volume of water use, purpose (i.e. industry – profit making), rural or farming or use by household and hobby farmers as non profit situations, cost should be structured so that they do not become a huge impact on the client. The benefit of a licensing system is that it provides valuable data to improve monitoring and management of the nation's ground water usage. It also provides the opportunity for land owners to be aware of how they manage their own water usage more effectively.
2. Not aware of what the implications would be if the full cost of administering the water license system was incurred by Department of Water.
3. Not applicable
4. Not applicable
5. Ideally water license should be required for all groundwater extraction. This should not be a priority however and should only be introduced into areas that are currently exempt as the need arises or if and when the Department of Water can effectively deal with the increased workload. The Department appears to be having difficulties in processing existing license applications in a timely manner.
6. If landowners harvest water by means such as dam constructions, storm water harvesting etc they will receive benefits in saving on ground water license cost. Perhaps recognition and assistance could be provided in the form of grants depending on each individuals needs.
7. It is not known to what extent the National Water Initiative provides different license systems. The National Water Initiative board should liaise with Department of Water on this issue.

Once again than you for the opportunity of providing a submission. If you require any further information please contact the Parks Asset Supervisor Mr Kim Trotter on 9956 6641.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Shoemark  
Director Technical Services

