

WLS SUB 9

SUBMISSION TO

Economics & Industry Standing Committee
Inquiry into Water Licensing and Services

I ask that you please give consideration to the following issues on which I have expressed my opinion.

1. The intention of the concept of 'full cost recovery' as required under the National Water Initiative was aimed generally at government augmented supplies such as the Murray - Darling system rather than from self supply users. On our property we have supplied our own dam and associated infrastructure. We catch only 16% of the available water in the catchment. The catchment is 2km in length and is entirely on our own property. As there is no management of our catchment by government agencies there is no justification for the imposition of management fees.

The dam and infrastructure has been a capital cost in excess of \$100,000. On going maintenance and depreciation of the infrastructure costs about \$5000 per year. As well we carry out our own water quality monitoring and make adjustments accordingly.

2. Money collected from water users should not fund the Department of Waters costs when fighting appeals by water users against decisions made by that department. If the water users payed for the departments appeals process it would not be following good governance principals as there would not be a financial imperative for the department to make good decisions.

3. If cost recovery is imposed on water users for government management costs it should be in proportion to the ratio of water used. For example if water users only use 4% of the available water in a catchment then they should only incur 4% of the management costs for the catchment. The other 96% of the water is available for the environment which is for the public good and should be funded from the public purse.

4. The monies that government receives from the co-operatives who purchase water such as Harvey Water should be used for the management of water rather than being placed in general government revenue. To do so would make the costs and profits from water use more transparent.

I would be happy to discuss my views with your committee.

Chris Scott
 For the Scott family


