

14 July 2012

Queensland Competition Authority. File Ref 444089  
Level 19  
12 Creek Street,  
BRISBANE QLD 4401

Attention: Mr Angus MacDonald

Dear Mr Macdonald,

I, Sue Crockett of 77 Mockers Road Fernvale have a water allocation of 100ml on the BrisbaneRiver and am disturbed at the proposed water pricing scheme for the BrisbaneRiver.

In the last twenty four months I have had my water pump on the Brisbane river submerged twice, once by the failure of the authority to announce a water release and once because I was interstate when water was released from the dam. I have also spent many hours in the last eighteen months removing and replacing my pump on the river as the authority seems to have taken to using the river as their personal drainage ditch.

During the 2010 floods my pump site was severely eroded and I have spent thousands of dollars both fixing that erosion and replacing damaged equipment uphill of the pump site. The water was at least thirty metres over the pump site in January 2010.

The idea that we should be charged regardless of usage, seems designed solely to return the maximum to the authority with no regard whatsoever to either the property owner or the environment. It encourages the over use of a scarce commodity.

In case the bureaucrat who thought up this novel scheme doesn't understand the fundamentals of economic demand and supply; farmers use more water in dry times to produce in demand commodities like hay because they are worth more. In wet times he has little need for irrigation. In both dry and wet times he has a need for stock water which in our case comes from the river.

The idea that we should be charged a flat fee for water we may not use is greedy, unnecessary and fails to recognise that we spend our time and money maintaining the riparian areas for which we receive no compensation whatsoever. Effectively this means that a water license which we all look upon as an asset in fact becomes a liability, no doubt with the intended outcome that we relinquish our licenses and become less viable farmers.

Does the proposed outcome mean that we can remove the water from the farm and sell it or use it elsewhere?

To me the proposal is lopsided and heavy handed and fails to take into account the costs taken on by the users in maintaining and cleaning up the mess created by the recent flooding in which I think the water authority was not entirely without some responsibility.

Yours Sincerely,

Sue Crockett  
Mid BrisbaneRiver Irrigator