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9th December 2011

C.E.O.,
Queensland Competition Authority,
GPO Box 2257,
BRISBANE. QLD. 4001

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Neil Turner Weir Water Allocation at Mitchell

On 29 November, 2011 I Charlie Cicero attended a Sunwater Irrigation Price Draft Report Meeting in Mitchell from 2pm to 5pm, which was headed by Mathew Rintoul.

I was completely dismayed after Matthew Rintoul had taken me through the proposed price structure. Taking into account that from the first time I met Matthew Rintoul and through phone conversations I had informed him that this irrigation system does not work and cannot be labeled under or listed as a commercially viable irrigation system.

For C.E.O. Information:

I have been trying to grow horticultural crops for 6 years now and have found it UNSUCCESSFUL.

There are a number of reasons for this:

1. The amount of sand on the upstream side of the weir which is approximately ½ metre higher than the weir wall and 1.5 kilometers upstream of the weir which is beyond my farm boundary. The bulk of the sand was first deposited in 1990-1991 and has been on the increase since then. Every time the river runs it deposits more sand.
2. There is only a shallow channel on my side of the river, approximately 1.2 meters deep x 12 meters wide.
3. There for insufficient water to grow viable size crops.
4. Water is seeping through sub soil under the weir very quickly.
5. Lack of rainfall to refill the weir in the past, which has lead to crops dying.

So in all of this I am done, there for I am seriously considering no longer growing any crops of any kind in the foreseeable future. The pumping power costs and running costs involved in growing the crops are difficult enough to meet without the water costs applied as well.

So with this I am saying, the price review applied to myself and other allocation holders in the Neil Turner Weir is totally UNWORKABLE and to the point of being UNCONSCIONABLE CONDUCT .

Matthew Rintoul made a suggestion to me at the meeting on 29th November, 2011 if my water allocation licence was to be changed into a Water Harvesting Licence, would this work. It was explained to me a Water Harvesting Licence would incur a fee of \$3.00 to \$4.00 per Megalitre of total water used, and no fee when there was no usage. This Water Harvest Licence may possibly work and I would consider trying.

Thank you for taking the time in understanding the situation that we are facing. I await your reply on a positive outcome on this matter for myself and the Allocation Holders of the Neil Turner Weir.

Yours faithfully,

Charlie Cicero