

Mary Ann Franco-Dixon

From: Doc & Shelley Suttle [bellview@bluemaxx.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 8 December 2011 5:49 PM
To: Water (External)
Subject: Dawson Valley 2012-17 Irrigation Price Review

8th December 2011

Mr Angus MacDonald

Dear Sir

Thank you for your presentation at Theodore 7/12/11. It is obvious that a lot of good work has been done. I would, however, ask you to consider the following.

As a River customer, once the high priority water and the 20% differential for the channel users is taken care of, we are often left with zero allocation to start the water year. This makes it very risky to plant a high input crop like cotton which is probably the only crop which will give a reasonable return at the moment.

At the last watering time for the cotton, our percentage of allocation is often still not over 50%. Under the current scheme, we have had to pay approximately half of the total annual cost of our "full" allocation up front, whether it is available or not, where as under QCA's recommendation, we have to pay approximately 90% up front whether we get the water or not.

On top of this, it would appear that the river irrigators have been overcharged/subsidising the system by \$8.85 per ML and will continue to do so at a lower amount "because prices can't go down". This appears ludicrous and somewhat unjust. Would it be acceptable to adjust (not reduce) the charges by a one dollar lowering of the River Part A at the same time as increasing the Channel Part A by three dollars or more annually as you have recommended until the Cost Reflective Price (or a little more) is achieved.

If, on the other hand, a profit margin is required, surely it would be more justly applied to the Part B which reflects the water which we have available to use in an effort to make a profit for ourselves.

Thanks again for QCA's input.

Yours faithfully

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