

THIRD ROUND CONSULTATION – ISSUES ARISING

[This note records issues identified, and views expressed, by stakeholders present at the meeting. The Authority is yet to form any opinion on these issues and views. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in the Authority's reports].

Scheme: Cunnamulla Weir WSS

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Renewals Expenditure

- Irrigators were previously told by SunWater that the renewals program was classified information.

Consultation with Irrigators

- SunWater suggested that the Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC) convene to discuss not only matters of relevance to the scheme, but also the frequency with which the IAC is to meet in the future. Irrigators were supportive of this proposal.

Opex

- It is considered difficult to justify the costs of running the Alan Tannock Weir at \$12,000/quarter.
- Irrigators have been reading their own meters, which should be saving costs. SunWater advised that it also reads meters as well as conducting water quality assessments and preventive maintenance in the one trip therefore cost savings of user meter reads are limited.
- Overhead costs are considered excessive.
- The \$50,000/year for someone to come and open a valve is not considered reasonable.
- There should be some scope for a local representative to undertake this work and save some costs. Seven hours of driving on a round-trip for 1 hour of work cannot be justified.
- Positive feedback on transparency of QCA process.

Prices

- Criticism of government policy – particularly given, irrespective of the Authority's recommendations, prices will not drop.

- Irrigators stated that the best they can hope for is that SunWater has been held to account and is transparent and using the right processes.
- Irrigators requested that the difference between cost reflective and recommended prices is recorded for future reference. The Authority confirmed this was the case given the public nature of the Authority's reports.
- A customer reported that their price of water has gone up more than 273% since 2000.
- Irrigators discussed the level of historical prices charged by SunWater and resolved to provide documentation to the QCA outlining the large increase in prices over time.