

Queensland Competition Authority

GPO Box 2257

Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Page,

Our Family own a small irrigation block (all river flats) on the Dawson River.

We have been here since the early 1900's and are proud to say that the 6th generation are now busily involved in working the block.

Our Family have already paid greatly when purchasing a river block. Our business was doing well, growing hay and crops with good returns having the reliability of the water.

In 1976 a weir was erected to allow dryland blocks surrounding us and downstream of us to be able to irrigate. Charges came into effect as infrastructure was put into place to supply new irrigators with water. This caused us great headaches. We were told that charges were only in place until all infrastructure was paid for.

We had a 1000mg licence at that time. Been a small block we could not afford the cost to keep all of that allocation and previous members of our Family surrendered most of the allocation as the price of hay decreased due to more farmers growing and selling it thanks to the Weir.

We tried retrieving that allocation but was unsuccessful.

We were told that once the infrastructure costs were met there would be no more charges except for administration costs.

It is firmly our belief that we should not be charged for water or at least have reduced charges. We had abundant water before (at our cost) and now have no reliability due to water been released frequently to the once dryland blocks.

The Neville Hewitt Weir causes us to flood so pasture does not cut it for an income. We need short term crops to succeed and keep this in our family for more generations to come.

Please review our pricing, as well as the pricing for all irrigators as most farmers are doing it tough enough now.

Thank-you,

McLellan Family.