

Thursday 14 February 2013

Queensland Competition Authority

Angus MacDonald

GPO Box 2257

Brisbane Qld 4001

RE: Central Brisbane Water Supply Scheme

Good Morning Angus,

Please find as follows our submission regarding the SEQ Water Irrigation Review.

I am just a simple farmer but I believe the people of the QCA have failed to investigate the history of Brisbane River and the water entitlement granted from the Queensland Government to the rural community below Wivenhoe Dam which has been honoured by many governments and departments for the past 30 years and nothing has changed in dam operations since this was granted.

The mid Brisbane River irrigators do not need the service of Wivenhoe Dam as enough water is supplied from the Lockyer Creek and many other creeks and gullies that feed the Brisbane River system.

The QCA with all its resources have also failed to find that other people and companies source water from Wivenhoe dam not just the irrigators and town supply, the meat works and Pattie plant at Coominya purchase water, and a private water board at Wivenhoe Pocket all pump water from the dam or river this is only the ones I know of, there may be many more. SEQ Water should show all income.

SEQ Water failing to show all water users, and with the history SEQ Water has of concealing the truth about dam operations, and the failure of QCA to investigate the history of the river and also find the other water users. How can I be confident the expenditure SEQ Water has proposed is true and that the QCA has investigated anything or just has a formula to take a % discount to justify their jobs?

Water testing at Wivenhoe is a huge expense which is only done due to its use for domestic supply agricultural dams are not tested like Wivenhoe Dam so this cost should not be passed on to irrigators. The extra manpower, equipment and equipment maintenance required to conduct these test should not be passed either.

Water testing in the dam in my option is a waste of money as the water should only be tested at Mt. Crosby, because with all the inflows from the Lockyer creek and other gullies this could contaminate the water on its journey once it has left the dam.

The equal division of costs between urban and irrigators is unfair. High priority water is a class above medium priority water. In drought times as the dam level decreases and the irrigators are placed on restrictions and then cut off from supply, urban still has supply. It then becomes impossible for irrigators to produce crops yet still has the expensive. When 50% restrictions are reacted our productivity decreases by half and therefore would make it unaffordable to produce any crop unless we have other sources of water. SEQ Water then have the added bonus of extra water being held at Wivenhoe Dam that can be sold to domestic supply at a much higher rate than irrigation water, with this in mind SEQ Water should compensate irrigators when water restrictions are enforced.

We hope that you and your team rethink and relook at SEQ Water's costing's and find all the information needed to do a proper investment, not just look at the small number of mistakes the irrigators point out which is all you appear to have done to date.

Operations involving irrigation water supply have not changed at Wivenhoe Dam since day 1, and if you fail to do your job properly it will cost our family farming business substantially as we have sourced water for more than 75 years from the Brisbane River.

Regards,

Wayne Keller

Riverside Farming