

**AN OBJECTION TO STATE WATER CHARGES ON SMALL  
UNREGULATED OCCASIONAL FLOW INTERSECTING STREAMS**

**TO Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal**

We have licences to pump water from the Warrego River which at the moment are issued with a substantial licence fee which should cover the cost of issuing the licence.

In addition, State Water charges an annual amount for water usage which appears to be what is charged for the Barwon/Darling. The Darling is a big river with access to much more water, whereas the Warrego is a small river and is dry most of the time. The Barwon/Darling requires a large amount of management but the Warrego does not. There are two gauges on the Warrego, one of which was installed by DL & WC with money supplied by a local community group. The other is a long standing DL & WC gauge. Both are also flood warning gauges.

Because of the blanket approach we are being charged as if we had access to water most of the time and the Department had a lot to do managing the river, whereas there may be a flow for less than 1 month in the year. Some years are better with longer flows, but records show 22 months between flows in one period. This year there has been no water in the river here since February.

The water is valuable to us but the State charge is out of proportion to what we receive. The charging system was supposed to be "commercial", but it is being applied as a tax and it needs changing to take account of what is actually being supplied, particularly in the case of this small unregulated intersecting stream.



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