

Submission on Draft Bulk Water charges 2001

It would seem that this is an exercise in absolute futility nonetheless I feel compelled to let you know, in no uncertain terms, my feelings.

Firstly there appears to be nothing in the proposal to indicate that you took one iota of notice of any submission from any of the water users. Whilst you make a big deal of the DLWC submission based on full cost recovery you take no account of the burden these costs create on the real wealth producing sector of the community.

I would like to see how you would respond if it was suggested that your base rate for your labour was proposed as ten thousand dollars per annum. No doubt you would be out the door faster than you have ever moved in your life.

Your token statements about the relative cost as a percentage of total farm costs being low is a nonsense. Most logical people who live in the real world recognize that the imposition of costs of any magnitude that do not produce any additional income is a heavy burden that should not have to be borne by the entity. They may appear as a low cost to you bureaucrats on high wages but they are a much more significant cost to the small farmer. After all it can only come from the meagre returns that are being received now because they will not generate any additional return. You make no mention of the community bearing any of the costs associated with the benefit to the community of having controls on water or is it that you realize but won't admit that it is small or non-existent.

It is hypocrisy for you to be increasing charges beyond inflation when there are controls restricting increases for other departments such as Shire rates. You really should be responsible enough to accept some degree of duty of care to ensure that the imposition of these increases is in line with other general increases that the community can tolerate. (20% p.a. + CPI is outrageous).

I remind you that no matter how hard you might think you work (and your life is a very easy one) at the end of the day you produce nothing for the real wealth of the community. You are just another obstruction to progress.

Given the level of contempt shown by you thus far there is little point in trying to proffer further objective suggestion.

I ask for acknowledgment of this submission.

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