



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

SENATOR RUTH WEBBER

22nd July 2005

Economic Regulation Authority
PO Box 8469
Perth Business Centre
Western Australia 6849

To whom it may concern

I write in support of the Goldfields Water Supply Project. This project will provide the Esperance-Goldfields region with a great opportunity for economic development, as well as supplying the region with much-needed water.

Such benefits include an estimated \$25 billion for the Esperance-Goldfields region, in addition to the \$60 million in royalties for the State Government.

Sixty five per cent of the \$440 million investment for construction of the pipeline will be spent in the region. In addition, 90 per cent of the \$26 million spent annually on running costs will be spent in the region.

As well as investment in the region, there will be 20 permanent jobs created for local people, and 200 jobs available during construction of the project. Hundreds of new jobs will be created in the region as a result of the estimated economic benefit to the region of \$2.5 billion.

The project will also have many social benefits for the region. The mining and agricultural industries in particular will be benefited by improved access to water, while the community itself may be able to enjoy fewer water restrictions, and some will pay less for water. Esperance residents will no longer need to pay additional costs for water treatment.

The greening of community facilities, increased potential for recreational water use, and a guaranteed supply of fresh water all year round will not only benefit residents, but will mean increased potential for tourism.

This project promises many benefits for the Esperance-Goldfields region, and I wish to add my support for United Utilities in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Webber
Labor Senator for Western Australia

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