

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to request that the Economic Regulation Authority's submission in relation to the Goldfields Esperance Water project be given further consideration as I am of the opinion that there has not been adequate consideration given to some very important aspects of the project.

The existing water supply for Esperance comes from several deep bore fields and the town supply is shocking to say the least. The mineral and calcium content in the water is very high and apart from the taste, it is very hard on household appliances and hot water systems that use the town water. Electric hot water systems typically last between three and five years if the water is not put through a water softener prior to entering the hot water system. Compare this with a life of 10 to 15 years and beyond for those hot water systems using rainwater on our special rural lots on the edge of town.

The environmental benefits to the mining industry in the goldfields will be enormous. The use of hyper saline water in the mining processes and to combat dust suppression is taking its toll on the environment and mining costs. The long term benefits of a potable water supply in the mining industry has been grossly underestimated.

The future economic growth and new industry potential has not been properly taken into consideration. Having a second source of water to supply the goldfields would surely be a big surety for the goldfields in the event something should happen to the existing pipeline service. Not to mention new ventures that could come into existence due to a new supply of potable water. There will be considerable opportunity for value adding for farmers who have the pipeline running through or near their property.

We will see new infrastructure investment in Esperance, Norseman, Kambalda and Kalgoorlie along with a new water supply for the Shark Lake Industrial park being developed in Esperance.

I would urge you to consider the implications of not allowing this project to at least progress to the next stage. It was very evident at the public forum held in Esperance on the 22nd of July that the current report is in need of a serious review and that there is overwhelming public support to have this project continue to the next level.

Submitted for your information.

Brett Thorp JP

Principal

Thorp Realty Pty Ltd