

**Kevin Leahy**

**P.O. Box 924**

**Carnarvon W.A. 6701**

**Ph/Fax 99418619**

Assistant Director Licensing

Economic Regulation Authority

Level 6, Governor Stirling Tower

197 St Georges Terrace

Perth W.A. 6000

**Attention; Susan Criddle**

**Re: Objection to Extension of Gascoyne Water Co-Op Licence (operating Licence No 38).**

Dear Ms Criddle,

Please find attached a copy of the e-mail, sent to you outlining my objection to the extension of the Gascoyne Water Co-Op Licence (operating Licence No 38).

Should you have any further enquiries regarding this submission, please contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Leahy

23 October 2007

**Clair**

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**From:** "Clair" <dplantation@westnet.com.au>  
**To:** <susan.criddle@era.wa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 October 2007 7:50 AM  
**Subject:** OBJECTION TO EXTENSION OF GASCOYNE WATER CO-OP LICENCE

I am a commercial grower and own and operate a plantation on South River Road Carnarvon with my partner Claire Dwyer. We are also members of the Gascoyne Water Co-operative and have, in the main been supporters of the co-op its staff and board. We have however not been supplied with any information either written or verbal to convince us that an extension of the Co-Ops water licence will be beneficial to commercial growers or in the long run even to the people that they seek to supply.

The plantation water scheme was set up by the State Government to give security of supply to commercial growers especially in times of non river flow and for many years both under the control of government water authorities, and latterly the Co-Op. it has fulfilled its charter.

The water being reticulated by the Co-Op is sourced from Water Corporation bores near Rocky Pool and the intention of the Co-Op is to extend their pipe network, at a cost of many thousands of dollars, to potential customers already supplied by a reticulated network owned and operated by the Water Corporation. The water will then be sold to these customers at a huge discount to that being supplied by the Water Corporation.

The customers concerned are not commercial growers and it seems to me to fly in the face of logic, that at a time of great concern over the availability of water and the need to increase its cost to encourage people to conserve it, that our Co-Op is doing the opposite and endeavouring to supply cheap water to " lifestyle blocks "

Our Co-Op water is purchased bulk from the Water Corporation and is obtained from the same bores that the Water corporation source their town supply. These bores are already running to near capacity and we have not had any hot days in Carnarvon since last summer. Although the Co-Op water is not treated to potable standards it comes from the same source and could be if urban needs increase.

With climate change, massive problems in the Murray/Darling horticultural region and the chronic shortage of water in all southern areas of Australia I do not think that we should be extending our horticultural water scheme to supply additional non-commercial customers when in March 2007, during our last hot spell, the Co-Op could not supply sufficient water to its existing members.

The irony of this situation is that I also own an eight acre "horse" property in the extended licence area and I will purchase water off the Co-Op if the extension is granted but I remain opposed until convinced that there is sufficient water for the present and future needs of our horticultural industry and the town of Carnarvon.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objection and I hope common sense will prevail.

Regards

Kevin Leahy