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S & L. Kostanich
Robinson St
Carnarvon 6701

The Economic Regulation Authority

RE: Objection to Gascoyne Water Co-operative extending its water service in Carnarvon.

We are plantation owners in Robinson Street, Carnarvon. **We are totally reliant on water from GWC for our plantation operations as we do not have river access with associated river bores.**

We are now aware that the Gascoyne Water Co-Operative (GWC) has made application with "The Authority" to extend the area it would like to supply non potable water to hobby farm lots and other small properties in Carnarvon.

We object to this in the strongest terms for the following reasons;

1. All of the properties outlined in yellow in the plan presently can access water from the State Water Authority and bores on their land if they wish.
2. The Gascoyne River does not have unlimited water supplies and we have been informed that the 5 GL allocated to GWC has already been allocated and growers requiring more water have to buy and sell (Trade) with water they are presently allocated.
3. There has to be additional water flow in the river to continue sub surface flow to avoid the invasion of saline water into the river and polluting existing river bores.
4. With Global Warming being accepted now by all governments in Australia, **we are being instructed to conserve water** and there is a strong possibility that the Gascoyne River will not receive as many flows as it has historically. The GWC proposal does not address the global warming issue and until there is more available data on what effect this will have on the Gascoyne River flows, further allocation of water should be stopped.
5. Before GWC's submission is accepted, they should be able to produce evidence to the Authority that;
 - A. There is now, **and will be in the future** sufficient water in their allocated supplies to supply these hobby farm blocks with water and that this will never effect water allocation to the plantation owners and share holders in GWC. This to also consider the impact of global warming

- B. How many properties within the proposed area there are, in other words the maximum number of properties that can take water and the maximum volume of water involved
 - C. Water pressure and flow to existing plantations will not be compromised if all of the properties connect to this extended area
6. The Carnarvon agricultural area is TOTALLY RELIANT on the Gascoyne River flows to recharge the aquifer and unless there is a body of current, reliable evidence that river flows will not be reduced by global warming this industry should not be put in jeopardy by issuing more water to hobby farmers.
 7. The GWC Proposal item 3. Does not provide any valid reason for allocating water to those properties; Viz one side of the street has access to GWC water, the other does not. Again, all these properties have access to Government water anyway. If any weight is put on this point, it validates GWC offering water to all and sundry in Carnarvon.
 8. Despite this issue not yet being considered by the Authority, GWC have already laid pipes into some of these areas making us believe that the amending of the license is a fait accompli anyway!!!

Please consider the points we have raised before you make your decision in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Stan Kostanich

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