

**SUBMISSION OPPOSING APPLICATION BY GWC TO AMEND WATER
LICENSE IL/38**

(11th October, 2007)

My name is Ian Duggan and I am a shareholder of Gascoyne Water Corporation (GWC) and plantation owner in Carnarvon.

I am generally happy with GWC and GWAMCO particularly the very efficient and helpful, service (field) and office staff. This in turn is also a reflection on how well Mr Ed Garrett the CEO and the board of directors are managing the Co-Operative.

However, I have reservations about the proposed amendment being sought by GWC for the following reasons;

1. The submission outline by GWC's CEO, Mr Garrett does not;
 - (a) indicate how many properties will draw water
 - (b) how much extra consumption of water is involved
 - (c) conditions, or restrictions, if any, imposed on those new properties
 - (d) whether or not this will result in pressure loss to plantations already drawing water from GWC
 - (e) what rate will be charged for the sale of water to these new properties.
 - (f) the submission does not address the effects of climate change now recommended for all rural future planning decisions in West Australia. (Conservation Council WA)
2. **There is opposition amongst other growers for expanding the GWC water network in Carnarvon.**

This issue was subject to a question in a recent survey. GWC in its Gascoyne Water Comment (September 2007) reporting on the Member Survey reported that "support for expansion of the local (GWC) industry is divided". I would ask that you refer to that questionnaire and view the responses to this question because it gives a **contemporary opinion of grower's views** on expanding the water network at this time.

- 3 The effects of global warming in this area have not been adequately researched. Until there is comprehensive evidence to the contrary, it should be assumed that there will be a reduction in rain from both south west frontal systems and tropical rain and hence less river flows into the Gascoyne River. This of course will affect the sustainability of the Carnarvon water basins.

Growers in Carnarvon are now well aware of what this may mean to future income by observing how water allocations have been slashed in the Murray Darling agricultural areas and it is not inconceivable that in the future, this may happen in Carnarvon.

- 4 I request that the Authority, before making a decision in this matter;

Instructs GWC to send a news letter to all share holders outlining their request for amendment to it's Water License and in that, include copies of the plan (identical to their submission to the authority)

Further to that information, GWC provide also, the following;

- (a) total number of property owners that have expressed interest in this proposal
- (b) total number of properties that can perhaps at a later date access this water
- (c) estimated water consumption for both above
- (d) cost of constructing pipeline to facilitate this
- (e) the charges to be levied to these properties for water installation, annual rate, and cost per KL for accessing such water
- (f) provide a current opinion of the effects of global warming on the Gascoyne river flow
- (g) provide a current estimate, based on that opinion, of the effects of drawing extra water to supply these extra properties.
- (h) advise whether or not this expansion will further reduce water pressure to existing users.
- (i) allow a further month for calling of submissions after the above has been distributed to all share holders

Following this process, the Authority then make a decision

Gascoyne Water Co-Operative, are not always complying with their philosophy of "keeping members Informed" (Heading on its monthly news letter). For instance a couple of months ago the chairman was recently replaced. That being Mr Holla for Mr Condo, and yet there has been nothing published about this or the reason for this, in the monthly newsletter. I ask why not ???. The result of this has been speculation, innuendo and rumour of the reasons for the change of chairmanship. For instance I have heard that is related to this matter. Members would like to know the reason for not advising them of the change in the chairmanship of GWC !

The manner in which GWC broadcast its intention to propose an amendment to its Water License, without detailed discussion about user numbers, possible consumption etc and more importantly showing detailed plans, again, is not "keeping members informed" The manner in which this matter was advertised provided the absolute minimum information and did not divulge the Website of the "Authority".

Its failure to do so provides just more ammunition to the organizations critics.

I also contend that the Authority would be better placed to make a more informed decision if more time and better circulation of the proposed amendment were made, allowing growers to make submissions either for, or against the proposed amendment.

Ian Duggan