

The Warren Blackwood Strategic Alliance (Inc)



PO Box 604
ManjimupWA 6258
Phone 0472 712 921
e-mail: info@accessengineering.com.au
ABN 84 209 500 433

17 December 2010

Economic Regulatory Authority
PO Box 8469
Perth Business Centre
PERTH WA 6849

Dear Sir,

INQUIRY INTO WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING CHARGES

We write in respect of the above matter understanding that submissions on this issue close on 20 December 2010. The Warren Blackwood Strategic Alliance represents the Shires of Manjimup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Nannup.

We acknowledge the Shires of Manjimup and Nannup have submitted detailed information regarding the effects the implementation of Water management practices will have in both Shires. At this time, apart from Plantations, the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes will not be severely affected by changes to water management.

The Alliance has previously submitted a document in response to the earlier enquiries and would like to reinforce those points:

1. The National Water Initiative was primarily devised in response to Water management issues in the Murray-Darling basin. Water management in the Warren Blackwood areas are significantly different and require an individualised approach. The methodology used to determine the component needed for the environment was changed in 2008, which resulted in a much of the area now being over allocated. This should be reviewed and a more localised method developed.
2. Water management in the area has been very well managed to this point and acknowledgement of this needs to be recognised, particularly in

respect to the significant privately funded infrastructure. The charging of these users should reflect the initial infrastructure cost not supplied by public funds.

3. Water users in the area are supportive of the need to manage and license water in the area, but do not accept the significant and restrictive charges proposed, especially due to the obvious inequity between charges to rural and city users.
4. The environment needs to be costed in equal terms to users.
5. Annual Water Management Plans be extended to 5-10 years to reduce costs and increase future investment.
6. If water meters are to be introduced, self reading and reporting should be introduced to reduce the costs to users.
7. Referral fees to be applied by Local Government should be charged directly by DoW to applicants.

Barbara Dunnet
President
Warren Blackwood Strategic Alliance