

AJ and LE Rowe
Rambouillet Estate
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PEMBERTON WA 6260

11th June 2009

Inquiry into Water Resource Management Charges
Economic Regulation Authority.

To whom it may concern:

We own a small farm in the Pemberton region, and supply our own water from a privately funded run-off/spring-fed dam. This water is for personal use and to service the needs of our cattle and vineyard. We are writing to you today, to record our concerns about the proposed new water resource management charges.

We consider that the following points need to be considered by your authority:

1. Our dams in this region have been privately funded and have not received any public subsidy as have other regions like Harvey, Carnarvon or Ord River.
2. Therefore, any mandatory metering and collection of water charges from our own dams would be grossly unfair. It would also be inequitable, as it would appear to be focused on selected areas and would not be statewide.
3. Water is vital to all communities and economic activity in this state, and as such, the management of this resource should be funded from general revenue not from specific charges paid by a few.
4. Food growers like ourselves, already have a very tight profit margin, and to add to these costs at this time is an impossible burden.
5. Charging for water from privately funded dams will discourage people from putting in dams, which will in turn contribute to a lowering of rainfall as more water flows into the ocean rather than is evaporated into the immediate region.
6. Water is a precious commodity in the Perth area, but there are around 150,000 garden bores in Perth using some 120 gigalitres of water which do not attract any water licensing fees. Why then apply them to food producers in regional areas like ours? It is not logical.

We hope that you will consider the points we have raised.

Yours sincerely,

AJ and LE Rowe