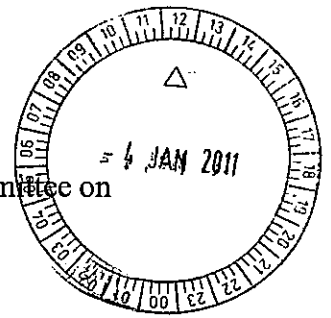


# PUBLIC



Thankyou for agreeing to refer the petition I submitted to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

Extra comments on the original issues

The allocation of 86% of the allocable water in this aquifer to one applicant especially as the water is to be moved to another management area should not be allowed. The only time this should be considered is for human consumption, if industry requires the use of large quantities of potable water they should have to desalinate the water, if the particular enterprise can not justify the cost, may be the venture is not viable.

To the best of my investigations no on ground environmental risk and impact work has been carried out on the mound springs and wet lands. Previous to the first public meeting the DoW and Karara/Gindalbie had no idea the wet lands existed. Once this was pointed out to both parties they immediately went about denying the wet lands would not be effected, Karara produced a diagram which supports their argument that the wet lands would not be effected, as locals we consider the diagram to be totally incorrect, the diagram has no relation to the topography in the area, and is just another piece of material that shows any thing goes in the licensing process.

The request by the general community and the Mingenew Shire for an extension to the public consultation period to late March 2011 has been rejected, as I continually point out to the DoW what effect will this extension make to the proposed minimum mine life time of 30yrs.

Extra comments from original submission.

The community is working from a point of lack of data along with the DoW. The DoW requires the applicant to collect the information and from past experience all reports are written up favourably. Some errors are so obvious they should not get past the DoW but they do.

Apart from pump testing which is carried out in an attempt to show draw down. A pump test is generally 30 to 70 hrs. Pump testing of bores is required for modelling a bore field of a number of bores that will be pumped nearly continuously once commissioned over a proposed 30 plus years.

As the applicant has to prove up the bore field it will near always result in a favourable report supporting their application.

Reports are made up of the most favourable information that can be obtained from any source, to come to this conclusion I have read a number of applicant's reports and it does not take long to work this out especially if one has read the reference material referred to.

In regards to material in reports most information is a number of years old, we need to operate with the latest information especially in regard to recharge. Most reports have very optimistic recharge values and pay no attention information contained in CSIRO reports and make no adjustment for the dramatic decrease in ground water rise as per publically available hydrographs.

Personally I have asked for models the DoW use to predict recharge, to date I have not been supplied with any modelling. The DoW has proposed to run a workshop in Mingenew in February 2011, to me this indicates the answer is not simple. This is one very good reason why an extension to the public submission period should be granted.

In regards to the public submissions the whole process needs a major overhaul, as the DoW has pointed out to me, (I Quote: we only ever intended the meeting to be a briefing) after extensively reading DoW material the word CONSULTATION must be a misprint?

The input from the community has historically not been considered that is why the process needs to be changed, for change to be effective it will require input from many parties to arrive at a satisfactory outcome.

The present process from my investigation has a few requirements that are in legislation the rest is not documented, resulting in a process which has no documented format.

From the best information available all applicants who are successful in obtaining a licence can sell the licence in the future, it has been put to me the licence could be sold. Potentially Karara/Gindalbie could sell this licence and the water could be exported. Yes this sounds alarmist but it is quite possible, I understand Singapore imports all their drinking water now. Licences should be converted to leases and increased regulations placed on licensees. Once the project has been completed the lease expires, this allows water to be re allocated or most probably taken out of circulation for future human consumption..

If water extraction affects present uses, the process of who and how compensation is addressed is not clear. Karara/Gindalbie when questioned gives a different answer to DoW. This needs sorting out so a blame game does not start.

Have I covered all the issues going forward or provided all available information I have been able to research the answer would be no.

Why am I so concerned, WA is on the edge of major water shortages moving forward and if changes are not made it will be too late. From a wide range of reports ground water rise is fast approaching pre land clearing levels which is very slow.

Areas I would like the Committee to address.

:Extension of public consultation period to at least late March 2011, issues raised by the public are answered to satisfaction.

:If the applicant is successful Karara /Gindalbie does not receive 86% of the licensable water in this aquifer.

:Full protection of ground water dependant ecosystems.

:Recommend that the process for public consultation is totally over hauled and changed.

:A review of DoW as if left in charge with the present structure, the issues with water into the future will result in an uncontrollable mess. Why do I make this request, When I asked a DoW what protocols do you have in place for licence conditions required to continue into the future, the answer was the DoW does not have structures in place. Very worrying.

:Who is responsible if water for present uses is affected if a licence is granted?

: If required I will supply all information I have been able to obtain, after extensive research.

I have not contacted the Ombudsman.

Many Thanks Peter Horwood

Petition No 104