

**SOUTHERN FORESTS IRRIGATION SCHEME**

*Petition*

**HON DIANE EVERS (South West)** [9.04 am]: I present a petition containing 862 signatures, couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We the undersigned, request that the proposed Southern Forest Irrigation Scheme be stopped. The scheme is economically unviable, environmentally destructive, and it is inequitable with regard to water allocation for the following reasons:

- The business plan is out of date and relies on old data for the prices and supply of produce;
- There is no guarantee that water flows will be sufficient to fill the dam;
- The costs of the pipeline installation and routing across private land is out of date;
- The destruction of forest for the dam, weir and pipeline is unnecessary and will destroy native bushland, habitat and culturally significant sites;
- The water flows past the dam & weir will be altered and have a subsequent impact downstream;
- The environments in the dam and the river above the weir will be altered;
- The water flows have not been proven to come from the forest rather than from the cleared agricultural land above the Donnelly River weir, where water restrictions impede opportunities to develop these properties;
- The properties with access to the scheme water are gaining substantial personal benefit from a very targeted government handout that could be used more equitably by a greater cross section of the community.

We therefore request the Legislative Council recommend to the State Government that any further progress on the Southern Forest Irrigation Scheme be discontinued until planning results in a more equitable distribution of water allocations across the district, a scheme that does not impact negatively on the environment, and a viable investment of funds. And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 2831.]