FARM WATER SUPPLIES

Petition

Mr P.D. Omodei presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 17 persons -

> To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

> We the undersigned from the Shires of Manjimup and Nannup are concerned that the State Government is proposing to interfere with the management of farm water supply in our Shires.

> Through the activities of the Warren Water Management Area Advisory Committee we have managed the water supply efficiently and cost effectively for decades and are concerned that the Government intends to introduce new taxes for water which we have developed at our cost.

> We are concerned that any costs associated with the proposal could affect farmers' viability.

> We are concerned that the Government, through the Water and Rivers Commission and Water Corporation will be dictating to farmers in our Shires what their farming practices will be - ie quantifying water supply which will affect cropping programmes and continuity of supply.

> We are concerned that there appears to have been no study done into the long-term financial implications on supply of agricultural products from our shires.

> We now call on the Legislative Assembly to ensure the proposal mooted by Government entities do not proceed.

> We ask that there be exhaustive consultation with the Warren Water Management Advisory Committee and farmers.

> We also request that Government entities consider the cost of construction of dams, irrigation systems and tax paid by the farmer in developing water supplies and irrigation before any decisions are made.

> Further we ask that Legislative Assembly request that Government entities also take into account that the south west of Western Australia is the food bowl of the State and ask that the Legislative Assembly pass these concerns on to the relevant Ministers and Premier and request that they abandon their push to charge farmers for water provided at their own cost.

[See petition No 236.]