

Environment and Public Affairs Committee

From: Blue Ridge Marron
Sent: Thursday, 7 November 2019 9:25 AM
To: Environment and Public Affairs Committee

Subject: Enquiry into the Southern Forest Irrigation Scheme

Good Morning

We, being representatives of the West Manjimup group opposed to the current model for the Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme (SFIS), respectfully request attendance to address the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs enquiring into the SFIS.

Points we would like to address, but not limited to include:

ECONOMIC

- The scheme denies landowners access to water which originally flowed through their properties but is available to purchase through the scheme after it has been pumped 4 times.
- Energy cost of this scheme to deliver water.
- Involves water trading....adding unnecessary costs to water.

SUSTAINABLE

- Recent changes to licence take periods.
- No further variable take.
- Changes to Middle Donnelly water volumes to shift more to forested areas.
- Denial of spring rights to farmers..
- Environment sustainability, salt encroachment, pumping from one catchment to another in a drying climate.

DEVELOPMENT

- Question DWER's modelling accuracy and planning process.
- Need to clear 450Ha of pristine forested land.
- Need to take water directly from the Donnelly River.
- Reliability of SFIS (10 years @ \$70M).

SOCIAL

- Current model benefits very few irrigators.
- Majority (10:1) farmers don't support this scheme.
- Community disharmony.
- Developmental timeline of SFIS with persons involved.
- Learn from the mistakes of the Murray Darling.
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Should the enquiry members wish, we would be happy to meet in Manjimup with the intention of visiting the proposed dam site and water take point as well as familiarisation with the many tributaries which support the Donnelly River. If not, the following would be happy to attend and deliver our case in Perth.

John Kilrain: West Manjimup farmer & horticultural merchant.

Brad Wren: West Manjimup cauliflower & broccoli farmer.

Mike Smith: West Manjimup potato farmer.

Dean Prestige: West Manjimup farmer & engineer.

Peter Tagliaferri: West Manjimup farmer & businessman.

Peter McGinty: West Manjimup aquaculturalist.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Regards

PETER MCGINTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



www.blueridgemarron.com

Aquatic Resource Management Pty Ltd t/a Blue Ridge Marron
323 Mitchelldean Rd Manjimup 6258 Western Australia

Phone/Fax: +618 97721195 Mobile: +61-407389674