

Dear Standing Committee - in response to the letter above.....

I am pleased that Petition No 138, supported by more than 1,000 signatories, will lead you to conduct an enquiry relating to our petition - thereby endorsing it.

The petition is to stop disastrous cuts to the water licences of North Wanneroo farmers, properties and residents, importantly with no compensation and no guarantee of further cuts - with overwhelming public support.

Some of the key features of the threatened economic and social disaster include:

- Overwhelming support from general public at Spud Sheds, thanks also to Tony Galati's support; he is strongly embracing our issue.
- The public is extremely sympathetic to how much farmers are struggling already. The public and farmers are outraged by the proposed water licence cuts which would ensure many farmers go broke and lose everything their multi-generational families have worked for - many being the pioneering families of Wanneroo. Their land and businesses would become unviable, derelict and worthless.
- The State Government's announcement to cut water licences, importantly with no compensation and no guarantee of further cuts, has already devalued North Wanneroo properties and businesses, creating negative equity, mortgage stress – it is already killing investment, growth and jobs. It is having enormous negative impact on the local economy and jobs, destroying livelihoods and multi-generational assets. It is also destroying critical food security for Perth and the state.
- Destroying the security of the industry's key input (water licenses) destroys its foundation, destroys investment and jobs, destroys food security.
- It is like the government taking your land to build a road - with no compensation. Importantly, taking Water Licences without compensation is not possible in other states. It is a lose-lose scenario - it is unfair - it is not a solution.
- Aaron Stonehouse MLC is the third politician to support us, along with Christian Porter MHR and David Honey MLA. We thank them for their ongoing support.
- The whole local and wider community is against cutting water licences - including all North Wanneroo farmers and property owners, Vegetables WA (the peak body), City of Wanneroo and the State Opposition.
- The State Government is not listening to the people -  
- all industry and community consultants of the Govt's 'Nth Wanneroo Agriculture and Water Taskforce' have resigned in disgust.
- The Community is united in the fair, logical, win-win solution, either:  
A) No Water Licence Cuts (Government currently pumps billions of litres of treated waste water into the ocean); or  
B) Sensible Planning Solution (sensible subdivision of less viable farms, creating capital to relocate farms where appropriate, remaining larger farms retain 100% of their water licences). This is the WA Planning Commission's and Alannah McTeirnan's own recommendation when she was Minister for Planning and delivered 'The Future of East Wanneroo Report' Recommendation 4. That effectively makes her the original supporter of our cause; it's a pity she seems to have changed her mind. A sensible planning solution is the most sustainable one - following the planning history of metropolitan agriculture; moving to the next viable location with capital to build bigger, better, efficient, modern tech' farms.

- On top of this debacle, the State Government is opposed to a 0.8km connecting road to the Mitchell Freeway extension and Metronet (from Lukin Drive Interchange to Wanneroo Rd). It would be the only Interchange on the Mitchell Freeway without a connecting road east – why? It is desperately needed by struggling farmers, business and residents to: stimulate the local economy and jobs, reduce travel time, reduce travel costs, clear congestion, increase road safety (there have been several fatal crashes in this area), increase emergency response and evacuation for fires, medical emergencies, etc. It would also connect suburban families to the jewel in the crown natural asset of the region, Lake Nowergup (the only permanent lake left in north Wanneroo) - helping to connect kids with nature and multiple recreational options, otherwise denied.

The future of agriculture is - large economies of scale, modern efficient technologies.

We support a new, well planned, large landholdings, secure water Agriculture Precinct to the east, incorporating state pine forest 65 (also a WAPC Future of East Wanneroo report recommendation with possible secure treated grey water from Alkimos treatment plant).

Importantly, a Sensible Planning Solution would provide desperately needed capital to relocate and invest in this precinct. It would enable multi-generational farmers' knowledge and expertise to prosper and grow. It would provide critical future food security for Perth.

It would also enable new economic enterprises such as; tourism, recreation, lifestyle, cafes/restaurants/ function centres, playgrounds, walkways to and around the Nowergup lake, museums and more. It would create a valuable and prosperous tourism, recreation and lifestyle precinct, less than 1km from freeway, rail and suburban infrastructure and diverse employment opportunities.

I make this submission on behalf of the factors that matter most - the farmers and families; certainty of land zoning; the economy and jobs; revival of current disastrous land and business devaluation; enrichment of the recreational options in the northern corridor of Perth and beyond; health and wellbeing.

The local Carabooda-Nowergup Valley has suffered for far too long and needs revival.

This submission seeks a solution similar to the one enabled by the Federal/State/Local Governments' Better Cities Program of the 1990's - including the East Perth, Subiaco, Fremantle, Bunbury, Ascot, Stirling, CATS city bus etc redevelopment renewal programs, of which I was State Manager. With imagination and collective commitment, this CNV program will rival and even surpass those programs - becoming a model for Australia.

Sincerely,

Christopher Waddell