



Shire of Wakool

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In replying to correspondence, please quote Councils Ref. No.

22 SEP 2009

Recovering Water in the MDB
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Sir/Madam

MARKET MECHANISMS FOR RECOVERING WATER IN THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN

I refer to the abovementioned investigation being undertaken by the Productivity Commission.

This matter was considered by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 16 September 2009 where it was resolved:

- i. *That Council generally endorses the Mayor's submission to the Productivity Commission's meeting held with local government representatives at Griffith on Tuesday 15th September 2009 which was addressing Market Mechanisms for Recovering Water in the Murray Darling Basin.*

Please find attached a copy of the submission that was used as the basis of the discussion.

Yours faithfully

ROD CHALMERS
MAYOR

This is a result of over allocation, bad management, climate change and changed priorities in Australia

Now we have a situation with 4 years of no allocations and so we have extremely vulnerable people in desperate situations very likely to be preyed upon by unsympathetic bureaucrats who up to date have treated people very badly.

Going forward we need a process that does not take advantage of people in a situation created by previous bad planning and management by governments
Part of the bad management has been when the cap was introduced unused allocation was recognized

Some faults with current process;

- Time is long-3 months to get an answer to expressions of interest

- Acceptance to payment - can be 6 months

- Desperate people need an answer quickly

The webpage we are sent to to see historic prices is out of date incorrect and difficult to understand.

The buyback team will negotiate with German corporates and give them a very good deal 10% of total budget

Will not negotiate with 4th and 5th generation Aussie farmers trying to sell enough water to manage a desperate situation and stay in farming.

Those offers made in the last round, which were indicated to be successful, should be honored.

Buying corporate water in big lots then say no to family farmers as have used budget on corporates is a disgrace.

- Reneg on water after indicating acceptance.

Process to date driven by bureaucrats who openly say they want the water at the lowest possible price and are ruthless in this pursuit.

Due to the current drought and the disgraceful handling of the last tender and the embargo which has totally undermined our farmers confidence in their ownership of water, the next tender will have a huge amount of water being presented for sale by increasingly stressed people.

This is not the time to use predatory practices.

These are farmers addressing climate change, drought, poor previous decisions and a social economic change of huge proportions.

We need a **fair set price** and water bought on a pro rata basis when over subscribed, not put in a cut so we have winners and losers.

In the irrigation districts we need targeted closure including reconfiguration and piping. So we need an integrated package. This could be administered by the irrigation companies in a way that led to efficiency gains and a fairer outcome for our farmers, who would rather be growing crop than this process.