

Quinn Family

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
Canberra.

Quinn Family had Properties at Berrigan 2712 In the Murray Irrigation District and in the West Corrugan District, which is a private Irrigation scheme.

Both these Properties were Freehold . We as a Family were 3rd generation Farmers. We were running a Sustainable Business for some 40 years.

The Property is situated to a very large Area.

The information that we will now supply relates to Berrigan Main Canel Leakage and the huge cost to our Property in production losses, and the huge cost to our Family who saw first hand to destruction of the property and the horror that followed.

In the early 80s We began to see problems starting to appear on areas adjoiningggg theBerrigan Main Canel We made contact with Land & Conservation and also Enviomental Officer. Many Tests were Carried out over a number of years that followed.

Our concerns became every day anxiety as the problem became progressifly more visual. Trees began Dying and pasture losses were alarming.

At this stage we would like to point out that the Farm had a history of very high production and was held in very high regard by our Bank.

Our worst fears were realised when areas affected prevented us from any pasture improvement and the areas began to grow large rouses Rushes .

The Market Value of the Farm was lost, it was unsaleable. The end Result was a Bank Foreclosure. The Bank sold our home and our Major Asset at a give away price .

As a last resort we instructed our solicitor Gerard McCarthy at Berrigan to claim compensation, Claiming that Berrigan Main Canel was leaking. However the claim was refused and the Dept Of Land and Water Denied that the Berrigan Main Canel was leaking.

My family by now were showing signs of stress and I started to have health problems and the badly affected Farm seemed to be beyond repair. The consistent Denials by Dept Of Land and Water placed us in an impossible position. Any form off assistance was rejected due to the claim by the authorities that the Berrigan was not leaking.

In !994 Berriquin Irrigation District as it was Known then .was Privatised Murray Irrigation Limited took control of the District. Within 2 Years Murray Irrigation Limited had clay lined and Sealed 750 meters of the Berrigan Main Canel joining our Farm. This is a huge length of Leakage and it was said that one hole was losing 14 megs a day. However although Murray Irrigation LTD confirmed in writing there intention to seal 750metre length of Canel they would NOT do anything to assist us the affected Landholder. The family farm was a forced sale in 1997. The price was the value of the water entitlement on the Farm. \$250.000.

The Propertyloss of value due to canel leakage broke the back of our farming enterprise and totally Distroyed the Farm and our Family as well. As far as we as a family are concerned the claim for compensation from NSW Department of Land and Water STILL Stands. My Family will go to any Lengths to see that our Property RIGHTS are protected. The total destruction of our Family Farms were caused by a canel leakage, and our years of successful farming, have been totality destroyed. Enclosed is a small sample of documents relating our consistent demands to the Authorities that the problem be attended to.

Thank You For Your Attention.