

**SEPARATE SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION BY W. HAYWARD TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS,
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING IN ADELAIDE
ON NOVEMBER 16TH, 2005**

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED DIDICOOLUM DRAIN:

At the meeting of landholders called by the Upper South East Program on May 4th, 2005, I noted that a representative of R.E.M. (Resource and Environmental Management Pty Ltd), Mr. Stuart Richardson, I think, was present. He was not a landholder, but worked for R.E.M. R.E.M. had been engaged by Willalooka Pastoral Company to comment on the three Investigative Reports and advise them. The appearance was given by remarks which followed between Mr. Richardson and Mr. Michael Leak (Upper South East Program Infrastructural Development Manager) while Mr. Leak was presenting to the meeting the preferred option for the drain, that these two had talked previously on these matters.

At the third, following and final meeting on 12th July, when some refinements to the preferred option were put forward to landholders, Mr. Leak said, somewhat as an afterthought and somewhat apologetically, that as the staff of D.W.L.B.C. had a lot of work on at the time that the Upper South East Program had employed R.E.M. to do continuing work on the drain. As R.E.M. was employed by Willalooka Pastoral Company as advisors and Willalooka was a prominent proponent of the deep drain, there appears to be a noticeable conflict of interest here.

I then noticed Mr. Richardson appearing at the Senate Enquiry on November 16th last year as a witness and technical consultant to the Coalition of Concerned Landholders arguing for a deep drain at Bald Hill. In the course of his evidence concerning the Bald Hill proposed drain, he gave information about the plans of the owners of Willalooka and aspects of their plans concerning the Didicoolum Drain.

After the hearing, I checked with Mr. Charles Bruce who confirmed to me that the Concerned Landholders advocating a deep drain at Bald Hill had also employed R.E.M. to put their case.

W. HAYWARD

26th January, 2006