

Kookaburra
Goodooga 2831
30 November

2005-

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: Submission to the "Inquiry into Water Policy Initiatives" on behalf of James Clive Green and Victoria Campbell Green.

* Our family has lived on Kookaburra since 1919 (86 yrs). Both the Birrie and Bokhara Rivers border our property.

* For many years permanent water was in both rivers for 8 months of the year. Our homestead and 4 other homesteads, all within 8 kms of each other, were built on the banks of the Birrie River in the late 1800's and early 1900's. All homesteads are still in use today. The river was their only water supply for household and stock watering purposes.

* This is the fourth generation of our family on the flood plain, each generation being sent to boarding schools for their education before returning home.

* It is apparent that our boys will not be returning home due to the state of the rivers and the financial and emotional effect it has had on our family and the community. They will have to move away from home to find work and have a lifestyle. Our family property will have to be sold in the near future as it is not viable for us as a family to continue. If at all saleable.

* Because of water loss and lack of beneficial flooding which consisted of 15,000 acres being flooded periodically, our income has diminished significantly.

* Because of the state of the rivers off-river storages have had to be built and bores sunk which has caused great financial hardship.

* It is very evident that since 1990 stock and domestic flows have reduced radically. Before this we would receive 2 flows per year for stock and domestic purposes.

* The effect on Indigenous people within our community has been devastating. Not only have we employed aboriginals for many years they have also always had access to our river country for fishing and hunting. This is something that the younger generation no longer enjoy and learn from their elders.

- What must be done:
- The Federal Government must take responsibility for the management of all licences and allocations away from the State Governments.
- Annual Volumetric allocation must be introduced immediately.
- Restrict extraction from any flow event to maximum of 30% of the available resource at all times.

- Every 12 months a complete allocation must be released for stock and domestic and the environment of the river.
- Overland flow extraction must be stopped.
- Overland flow water allocation and licensing must not proceed.
- If the Queensland Government persists with their present water policy, downstream water users must be compensated for their financial and emotional loss.
- The compensation flow from each event must be increased from 730ml/day to a minimum of 1500ml/day.
- Too many compensation flow releases only get to the border and no further. The NSW down-stream users must receive what they are entitled to.
- Surely all Australians are entitled to make a living, to be able to shower and use a toilet!

J C and V C Green

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