

# Central Downs Irrigators Limited

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The Chair,  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee,

Dear Senator Siewert,

I refer to the Interim Report on Water Policy Initiatives, specifically the section on effects of over allocation of rivers. Irrigators in the Condamine River are dismayed to read item 1.51 on page 11 stating " irrigators in the upper reaches of the Condamine Balonne argued that all the water flowing over the banks in times of flood is wasted etc"

We did not state this and cannot find anything in the transcript, which could be interpreted in this way. In fact irrigators in this region campaigned for many years for control of overland flow water, before the Government acted in year 2000. We support the Queensland Water Resource Planning process, which has provided over 60% of river flows in this Catchment being preserved for the environment and downstream users.

Could we suggest that the misunderstanding came about because Best Management Practice requires that tail water from irrigation activity, which may be contaminated with pesticides, be prevented from reaching the river. We stated that our irrigators comply with that standard.

Water use efficiency is important to irrigators as well as of concern to the general community. Our irrigators are undertaking research to minimize losses from evaporation and seepage from farm storages. This is the only water, which we might regard as wasted.

We would be happy to meet with you again or communicate in some other way to help explain the issues.

We request that you correct this misleading and untrue statement in this report and any future final report.

Yours sincerely.

Jan Lafrenz  
Chair,  
Central Downs Irrigators Ltd

Cc. Barnaby Joyce