



Coorong Water Security Advisory Group

Care of Tracey Strugnell
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SA Water Price Inquiry – A Balanced Bargain

Mr Lewis W Owens
Independent Inquirer
South Australian Water Pricing Inquiry
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Email: ann.pataki2@sa.gov.au

Dear Ann,

Thankyou for providing us with the opportunity to comment on 'A Balanced Bargain' the latest report in the SA Water Price Inquiry.

Please also find attached;

- Livestock Water Security in South Australia Background & Impacts

Coorong District Council and the Coorong Water Security Advisory Group endorse the submission made by Livestock SA on the 'A Balanced Bargain' report. In particular;

As indicated in Livestock SA's response to the third report, the crux of the issue for Livestock SA and its members is highlighted by the summary in the third report of the price rises (page 43):

"Real water price rises of 12.7% in 2008/09, 17.9% in 2009/10 and 21.7% in 2010/11 were followed by nominal increases of 26.3% in 2011/12 and 25.0% in 2012/13. The process is characterized by a dramatic rise in water prices over the period: from an Index of 100 in June 2008, the increases resulted in a price index of approximately 270 by July 2012."

The State Government states that it is aiming for the lowest cost environment possible to do business. Reducing the price of water needs to be considered as part of this process. This needs to start with a reduction the reassessment of the RAB.

The Coorong Water Security Advisory Group respectfully suggested that any mechanism to reduce the price of water will lead to positive economic drivers that could economically offset any argued impacts on Government revenue that would not be spent on welfare

outcomes. The following drivers that would result from a reduction in water price could lead to more positive economic outcomes statewide? Such as;

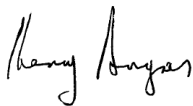
- Economic growth in the SA livestock industry.
- Environmental benefits of supporting grazing as a land use that is perfectly matched to the Coorong District and other SA landscapes
- The environmental benefits of promoting water saving technologies (as outlined below) that could make a positive contribution to the Murray Darling Basin Plan 450GL return to the environment

We ask that a recommendation be made as a conclusion to this inquiry that a separate study be made into the impact of high price of SA Water mains costs on livestock production and the broader economy across South Australia, and the potential options to address this situation.

The Coorong Water Security Advisory Group welcome officers working on this inquiry to visit our region to discuss your deliberations further if this would be useful.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to make a submission to this review.

Kind regards,



Henry Angas
Coorong Water Security Advisory Group



Tracey Strugnell
Coorong District Council