

Since DERM's water allocation cuts in the Callide Valley, it has made it difficult to know if we have enough water to pump for the water year therefore limiting our potential income which in turn limits Sunwater's income as water is too difficult to acquire to pump. Under DERM's new water agreement they allow us to transfer water in from user's outside of our zone. We have found in our efforts to transfer water in to maintain our cropping business, we are required to transfer from users in town with 5 mL allocations as all other bigger stakeholders use their allocation. In the very hot, dry climate we live in, 5mL does not go very far! We are required to purchase multiples of small parcels of water in order to build enough water to be secure. We are often faced with people not wishing to even sell as they are unsure of the process or having to pay exorbitant prices from active users. This is not reliable and have therefore decided not to develop or spend more money on further irrigation as it is too volatile. As for the price rise on water, it was against the Callide Valley water user's choice for the water to be cut out of the Valley which has in turn cut Sunwater's potential income from this Valley. We feel that the cuts in our water allocation by DERM has not only heavily affected our turnover but Sunwater's also, and it is therefore going to be supplemented with these proposed price rises. Unfortunately, we understand the process and legalities of submissions and realise it is merely a formality to call for submissions with little to no effect on the end result.