

Gatton workshop-issues raised

This note records issues identified and views expressed by stakeholders present at the QCA's initial workshop for the 2025-29 irrigation pricing review. The QCA is yet to form any opinion on these issues and views. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in the QCA's draft report.

Schemes: Central Lockyer, Lower Lockyer

Date of workshop: 23 January 2024

Topic	Issues raised
Seqwater's proposed costs	Stakeholders raised concerns raised about the high and potentially excessive costs of the modernisation project and the recovery of those costs from customers.
Affordability/capacity to pay	Stakeholders were concerned about the combination of high prices, large price increases (due to the government's pricing policy) and poor scheme reliability.
	Stakeholders said the QCA should look at capacity to pay to ensure farmers do not go out of business or invest in alternative water supply options, which would result in scheme assets being stranded.
	• It was suggested that the QCA recommend suspending the Part A (fixed) price when no water is available.
RAB vs annuity approach	Stakeholders wanted to understand the difference between the two approaches.