

QTPA & TPA Member

Queensland Turf Producers Association
Your Guarantee of Quality and Value
Queensland Competition Authority. file ref:444089
Level 19,
12 Creek Street,
BRISBANE. QLD 4001

Office:

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1 6 JUL 2012 DATE RECEIVED

For the Attention of Angus MacDonald

Dear Sir.

Subject-Irrigation Prices for Segwater Central Brisbane WSS: 2013-17

We are stakeholders in the Central Brisbane WSS and hold a current license to draw water from the Brisbane River between Wivenhoe Dam and Mount Crosby. We would be extremely concerned should the QCA come to the conclusion that the documentation provided by Seqwater provides a justification for any charge to be made for water taken direct from the Brisbane River under the capped 7000Ml agreement.

We note that the Fernvale Consultation meeting of 22nd June was attended by a very small proportion of the 130 License Holders. We consider that the views expressed about the level of charging per ML were not representative of our views or the views of the majority of license holders in the Central Brisbane WSS who attended a meeting of 10th July 2012.

We support the views expressed in the attached submission and request the QCA accept this submission on our behalf.

Yours faithfully, For and on behalf of Grassco Ptv Ltd

Matt/Curro Managing Director

Water allocation 114 on Crown Plan AP14178

14 Jul. 2012

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Submission to Queensland Competition Authority

With Reference to SEQ Water requesting that land holders pay a premium for drawing part of the 7,000 Megalitre Agreement.

This is a direct response in support of the stakeholders in the Central Brisbane WSS and their endeavour to address and clarify their views regarding the proposed price structure for drawing water for irrigation purposes.

We operate a Turf Farm in the Wivenhoe Pocket Area, providing our product and services to the Local and Regional Community. These products include Erosion Control Turfs that have assisted Residential development and re-established areas affected greatly by the January 2011 floods.

Our Business has provided employment for Locals since 1993, and continues to do so.

We are members of the Turf Producers Association, Queensland and Australia, which we are currently undertaking the process of Quality Accreditation. As part of this undertaking, the process of Mapping our property and improving Water and Land Management is a necessity.

We have assisted the Turf Producers Association, Queensland in testing and developing Irrigation Practices and equipment, in order to help assist others within the same industry.

We have purchased improved electrical equipment and upgraded our Irrigation Infrastructure with the assistance of this Association.

A pricing structure such as this proposed submission may indeed pressurise our Business, obviously increase overheads and force price negotiation for our product supply to long standing customers that will already be feeling the effect of increased costs partially due to the implementation of the Carbon Tax.

With the evident rise in necessary consumables, including electricity, petro-chemical products (including herbicides and fertilisers) it would appear that pricing irrigation water that has previously been available to our Business via Permit and Access Fees is no longer sustainable to SEQ Water and there may be a need to Bulk Charge for the actual amount we are entitled to, whether it is used or not.

I would urge that the QCA give consideration to the fact that the price of our product, namely Turf of various varieties, has not increased in price to customers since our business began, however the cost of overheads and consumables has indeed risen, making profitable margins very narrow indeed.

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I would suggest that there may be a need for SEQ Water to substantiate their requirement to charge for this water by addressing whether or not there is a real cost to them as an operating business, by allowing this water to be drawn.

I have in the past, been advised that the Brisbane River is the infrastructure that SEQ Water Provides in order to have Licence and Entitlement Holders to draw from. It was, however, there long before SEQ Water arrived, meaning that it is a natural infrastructure. Maintenance to the Waterway is now, more than ever, every stakeholders responsibility, and so far SEQ Catchments and local residents have been bearing the cost to assist in rehabilitating this area.

It appears that, at a time when everyone in my area is still recovering from the floods, and our infrastructure – Water pumps and Irrigation and Power Lines have had to be replaced at our expense (not SEQ Waters) the advent of paying for this untreated water will be a cost too much to bear for our business.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

With Regards

Matt Curro

Managing Director

Grassco Pty Ltd