

- 7 DEC 2011

DATE RECEIVED

Noel and Jill Mobbs

"Gowrie"

Charleville, 4470.

Ph: 07 46541831

Fax: 07 46543292

Mr Mathew Rintoul

Qld Competition Authority

GPO Box 2257

Brisbane 4001.

1st December 2011

Dear Sir,

Please find the copies of letters sent to the Minister Kate Jones for your information and perusal together with a response dated the 17th of June 2011. We feel that these letters are self explanatory.

We request that your Authority give this matter due consideration, as it stands to date this issue remains very unjust. It is an ongoing imposition and financial hardship which we are unwilling to continue to carry and cannot be justified by any means.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Noel and Jill Mobbs.

Noel and Jill Mobbs

From:

Noel Mobbs

South West Cattle Pty Ltd

"Gowrie"

Charleville, 4470

Phone: 07 46541831

9TH FEB 2011

Attention :

Richard Clews

DERM

richard.clews@derm.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir,

We wish to surrender forthwith the 9th day of February 2011 the licenses we hold through DERM on the Maranoa River and Neil Turner Weir. The water account number is 107439 and the water allocation numbers 1003 ap7585 – 400 mega litres and water allocation number 1639 ap7585 -110 mega litres.

This is a very impractical scheme with exorbitant charges that we can no longer sustain. How these costs can be justified with maximum charges is beyond comprehension, when there is often no water in the system at the Weir or otherwise that can be used if indeed it were possible to access it. It is unfortunate that your department lacks the wisdom to this point, to apply adequate cost for the benefit that is actually possible to be used or accessed by the landholder / water license holder. We do hope that such schemes as this particular one on the Neil Turner Weir and Maranoa River will be revised for future potential, hopeful, users so that they will not be charged for something that in actual fact does not exist and possibly never will, given the current problems on this system.

Yours faithfully

Noel Mobbs

South West Cattle Pty Ltd.

"Mitchell Downs"

Mitchell Qld 4465

Ph: 07 46541831

Fax: 07 46543292

gowrie@harboursat.com.au

Hon. Kate Jones

Minister of Environment and Resource Management

Level 13

400 George Street

G.P.O Box 2454

Brisbane Qld 4000

14/03/2011

Dear Ms. Jones

On the 23rd of July 2004 we entered into an interim water agreement attached to the property "Mitchell Downs " at Mitchell, which we had purchased earlier in the year. Attached to the land at the time of purchase was 510 megalitres of water which is the majority of the 800 megalitres allocation available from the Neil Turner Weir on the Maranoa River. We were obligated to accept the full 510 megalitres in order to purchase the land.

The agreement with Sunwater had been handed down through previous owners but no one ever undertook any irrigation infrastructure because of the uncertain water availability out of the Neil Turner Weir. The capacity of the Weir has been severely reduced from the original 1500 megalitres to approximately 1/2, brought about by huge sand deposits of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres.

We have never extracted 1 litre of water out of the Weir nor did any previous owners. During the past 7 years we have been forced to pay Sunwater \$85 455.40 as per the attached letter from Sunwater, please note we are now paying \$44.68/megalitre up by 329.49%. \$22 786.80 per year. The Shire rates are \$10 026.00 per annum.

We contacted DERM with the intention of surrendering the water allocation only to be informed that there was no provision in the act for such an occurrence. We were informed that we could sell or gift the water, but were restricted in doing so as it could only be transferred to the other 5 small landholders adjoining the Weir and could not be sold to anyone downstream.

The other landholders are not interested in the water even if we gift it to them because they would have to enter into a supply agreement with Sunwater of \$44.68 per megalitre, with little certainty of ever getting any water. Over the past 10 years the Weir has been dry six times.

The problem is once a supply agreement is signed with Sunwater there is no way of getting out of the agreement and it is handed onto your heirs for infinity, with the charges going up as it sees fit.

Firstly, we feel this is a financial imposition, "Mitchell Downs" is only a small property and has no way of sustaining this unwarranted, unusable and unjust charge. Just as importantly the Weir has not and never will be a successful irrigation water supply. Sunwater needs to be made accountable for what is unconscionable conduct or at the very least receiving money in exchange for water which, to this point it cannot supply.

This water agreement has de-valued our property to the extent of adding 2 1/4 times the cost of the rates. No one of sound mind would buy a property with this extraordinary, insidious and infinitive agreement attached to it .

We are requesting that you seriously consider this problem and make it possible for the license holders on this particularly ineffective scheme to be freed from it. We desire an end to the injustice of these unfair payments. We await your reply to this letter, please do not fob us off or hand this problem from one department to another, we have already been through this procedure.

Yours sincerely

Noel Mobbs

Jill W. Mobbs

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 18/03/2011 11:02
NAME : NOEL @ JILL MORRIS
FAX : 0746543292
TEL : 0746541831
SER. # : 000K5J884120

DATE, TIME 18/03 11:01
FAX NO./NAME 46236617
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MODE STANDARD

From: Greer, Anthony
Date: 15/02/11 6:13:08 PM
To: gowrie@harboursat.com.au
Cc: Hodgson, Donna
Subject: Condabri Feedlot Pty Ltd - 306758

Please find below information requested.

Water Charges

Year	Alloc	Annual	Price
2004	510ML	\$ 3457.80	\$13.56/ML
2005	510ML	\$ 7099.20	\$13.92/ML
2006	510ML	\$ 14789.60	\$28.96/ML
2007	510ML	\$ 16544.40	\$32.44/ML
2008	510ML	\$ 18747.60	\$36.76/ML
2009	510ML	\$ 20787.60	\$40.76/ML
2010	510ML	\$ 22786.80	\$44.68/ML * Full year calculation

Interim Water Allocation 43896q 510ML 01 Oct 2004 to 01 Sep 2007. This interim water allocation was reissued by DERM as two interim water allocations 404124 110ML and 404123 400ML 01 Sep 2007. These Interim Water Allocations were then issued as Water Allocations 1003 AP7585 400ML and 1639 AP7585 110ML on 15 December 2008.

As you purchased this property with an existing Interim Water Allocation, you were required to enter a supply contract with Sunwater. This contract commenced 23 July 2004. The "Deemed" contract arrangements we talked about did not apply in this instance.

Anthony Greer
Customer Support Manager,
Infrastructure Management.

Telephone: 31200134 Facsimile: 31200249 Mobile: 0457 519 405
Email: anthony.greer@sunwater.com.au

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"Mitchell Downs"

Mitchell Qld 4465

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emma@harboursea.com.au

Hon. Kate Jones

Minister of Environment and Resource Management

Level 13

400 George Street

G.P.O Box 2454

Brisbane Qld 4000

28/03/2011

Dear Ms. Jones,

Following our recent letter to you outlining the problem with the Maranoa Weir Irrigation System dated on the 14/3/2011. We again contact you to discuss this problem.

FACTS –

1. At present the cost of this non-commercial irrigation water supply is supported solely by the license holders in the district. Two of three license holders Charlie and Wendy Cicero and Noel and Jill Mobbs contribute a combined amount of \$32 252.16 per year to this scheme. It seems to us that there is a great unfairness and lack of equity in us bearing the burden of the costs associated with a scheme that is not workable for the purposes of irrigation.
2. The only true beneficiaries of the Neil Turner Weir may be tourists who use the recreational area to stop and rest and perhaps locals for fishing etc.
3. The Maranoa Council have the sand dredging rights which is a benefit to the larger community.

QUESTIONS-

1. Why should we the license holders bear the cost of this Scheme? This is especially problematic when it is obvious that there is no benefit to us having paid or continuing to pay for the licenses to irrigate water that is not possible to access and does not exist.

SUGGESTIONS –

1. We would like to recommend to you that this scheme be returned to DERM.
2. Once returned to DERM it could be reclassified as an Orphan system. Doing this would release Sunwater from its responsibility and allow we the license holders the choice to be freed from our onerous burdens and charges related to the Maranoa Weir Scheme.
3. The costs associated with the recreational use of the Weir could be more fairly born by the community.

We trust that you give due consideration to the above.

Yours sincerely

Wendy and Charlie Cicero

Noel and Jill Mobbs



Hon Kate Jones MP
Member for Ashgrove



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Environment
and Resource Management**

Ref CTS 04600/11

17 JUN 2011

Mr and Mrs Noel Mobbs
South West Cattle Pty Ltd
"Mitchell Downs"
MITCHELL QLD 4405

Dear Mr and Mrs Mobbs

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2011 concerning water charges associated with the ownership of supplemented water allocations within the Maranoa River Water Supply Scheme.

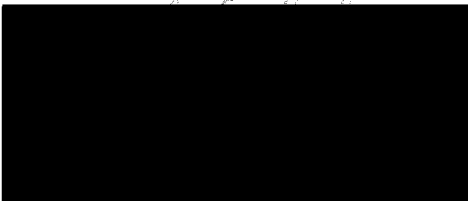
I have requested that appropriate officers in the Department of Environment and Resource Management give priority to investigating the concerns that you have raised in your letter and report back to me by the end of June 2011. The departmental case management person will be Mr Steve Goudie, Manager Water Services, South West Region at Toowoomba on telephone 4688 1035. Mr Goudie will contact you directly as soon as an outcome is determined.

I recognise that there are water access reliability issues relating to Neil Turner Weir and that the silt and sand build up in the ponded area of the weir reduces available storage capacity.

I am advised that SunWater, as the Resource Operations Licence holder for the water supply scheme, administers water tariffs for its irrigation customers and that a Part A charge applies regardless of any water being taken.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Joshua Cooney, Principal Policy Advisor in my office on telephone 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely



Kate Jones MP
Minister for Environment and Resource Management

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