

FIRST ROUND CONSULTATION – ISSUES ARISING

[This note records issues identified, and views expressed, by stakeholders present at the meeting. The Authority is yet to form any opinion on them. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in proposed Issues Papers and in the Authority's reports].

Scheme: Lower Fitzroy

Date: 10-May-10

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Process Issues

- more notice of meetings required; and
- assistance with submissions required. In particular, QCA requested to organise a further meeting with irrigators and that minutes from this meeting form the Lower Fitzroy submission;

Technical Issues

- tariff structure: irrigators currently face all Part A charges, yet use very little water for irrigation purposes;
- price indexation: water prices increased by significantly greater than CPI in a particular year;
- SunWater management and administration costs: questions about how these are calculated given current (very low) water usage by customers;
- review approach: review on scheme by scheme basis considered essential given unique aspects of each scheme; and
- capacity to pay: difficult to define and measure. Major issue given that irrigators cannot currently afford to irrigate.

Scheme Specific Issues

- form or regulation: current charging system may not be appropriate given that irrigators are using very little water; and
- capacity to pay: relatively small number of irrigators and remoteness from other irrigation schemes imposes higher costs for range of agricultural services such as agronomy, etc.