

Daryl Stockham
215 Shirbourne Road
GIRU QLD 4809

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Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane Q 4001

www.qca.org.au/submissions

Re Rural Irrigation Price Review 2020-24 Proposed Giru Benefitted Area Pricing

I and/or my family own and operate a farming business on 46 hectares in the Giru area. I and/or my family have grown sugar cane crops for sale and supply to the Invicta Sugar Mill located in the Giru township for 20 years.

The viability of my farming business relies on the availability and security of irrigation water to sustain the production of the sugar cane crops. Central to the viability is the price of water for irrigation.

My farm does not have the security of peak flow entitlement and the convenience of on farm delivery of water via channel infrastructure.

I rely on established dedicated bores and pumping infrastructure that I have invested in and maintained that incur significant energy costs to operate.

I will not have the capacity to continuing to farm under the prices proposed by the Queensland Competition Authority review. I believe the recommended prices will impact the viability for the agricultural activity of sugar cane growing which is ideally suited to the Dry Tropics environment and climate in the Giru area of North Queensland.

I implore the QCA to reconsider the proposed water prices and to recognise that farming and milling businesses were originally established in the area under the availability of water for irrigation that was accessed and developed from an existing aquifer and river flows in the Haughton river which were available prior to the existence of the Burdekin Falls Dam. The recognition of the aquifer and Haughton River contribution of 19700 megalitres prior to the BFD should be preserved in the form of a Community Service Obligation provided by the Queensland Government.

I also rely on and support the submissions lodged with QCA today by CANEGROWERS Burdekin Ltd.

Yours sincerely

Daryl P Stockham

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0429 790 033