

Submission to QCA regarding pricing for the Cunnamulla Weir Scheme

LOW COST WEIR

The high running costs do not reflect the low cost nature of the Cunnamulla weir. The weir is a very low maintenance barrage weir that has only one moving part - a release valve for environmental releases. There are no delivery channels and no delivery pumps. The handful of irrigators on the scheme all read and report their own meter readings to Sunwater.

REDUCE RUNNING COSTS

The irrigators would like to have more input in reducing the running costs of the weir. For example, it is a seven hour round trip for someone from Sunwater in St George to drive to Cunnamulla to do a five minute job of turning the release valve on or off. Sunwater should arrange for someone from Cunnamulla to do this.

TRANSPARENCY IN COST ALLOCATIONS

The irrigators would like to see a comprehensive cost allocation breakdown on their invoices just as we get from other suppliers.

LARGE GAP BETWEEN PLANNED BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

The Actual expenditure on the Cunnamulla weir from the last price path was well below Budgeted weir expenditure. The new price path budget must account for this previous large surplus and be adjusted accordingly.

TIMEFRAME OF WEIR REPLACEMENT

Sunwater's time frame for replacement of the Cunnamulla weir is too short. It is a small, low maintenance weir that should have a much longer Cost Recovery life span before replacement.

LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH REGION

The new Price path should reflect the low economic growth of the far western region and be adjusted to promote further growth in the region.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Cunnamulla irrigators request that any future meetings be held regionally rather than by teleconference.

Yours sincerely,

John Biggs