

Submission to QCA

Regarding

SEQWater Rural Water  
Supply Network Service Plan  
(NSP)

For the Central Brisbane  
supply scheme

On Behalf of

Rivermead Pty Ltd.

## **Introduction**

Rivermead Pty Ltd is a rural production company with land adjacent to the Brisbane River at Fernvale below the Wivenhoe impoundment. (Licence no. 170946 and 0111353c) It holds a water allocation of 245ML of medium priority water from the Central Brisbane Supply Scheme.

There are numerous concerning factors in the SEQWater document, regarding the setting of a tariff and price path for this scheme, which need to be analysed further by the QCA. These are listed and discussed below.

### **Points to be reviewed by the QCA**

1. The water we use does not necessarily come from Wivenhoe. The tributaries of Lockyer creek, Sandy creek, Pride creek, England creek, Banks creek, and Black Snake creek in an average season supply in excess of the 7000ML allocated to the central Brisbane scheme which could in fact mean that we could still operate as an unsupplemented supply.
2. The operators of Wivenhoe have never and cannot coordinate releases to supply irrigators as they do not know irrigators individual schedules and they use such a small proportion of water compared to the amount released for Urban Supply it would make little difference if they did. Therefore the operating costs for the supply of irrigation water could consist of one part time worker to administer the collection of usage data and the dissemination of accounts.
3. SEQWater require no additional infrastructure to supply this scheme as all head works, meters and possibly telemetry system costs are born by the irrigators.
4. The inclusion of both Wivenhoe and Somerset dams when calculating the Renewals expenditure is incorrect. The 7000 ML cannot be stored twice and the removal of Somerset dam would make no conceivable difference to the supply reliability and delivery of our water allocation. When Somerset was the only impoundment on the river this scheme was classed as an unsupplemented scheme and only became a supplemented scheme when Wivenhoe was constructed.

**Suggestions for improving the efficient and highest value usage of the allocated water.**

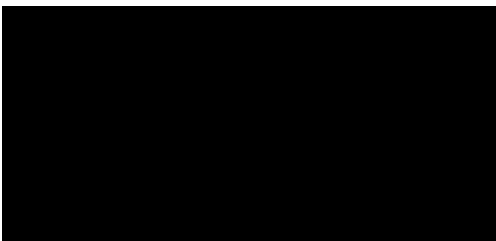
To encourage the efficient and most high value use of the allocated water in an area where trading may be limited could be achieved as follows without penalising legitimate water users with excessive fixed charges.

The individual irrigators pay a 20% fixed charge and if the water is used or temporarily traded the eventual user pays the remaining 80% variable charge. All unused allocations will be offered for trade and if all trading options are exhausted the remaining water will be purchased by SEQWater for the 80% variable cost figure and then converted to high priority water to be on sold to the Urban users for that period. This is achievable as SEQWater already holds an allocation and are able to temporarily trade water with other irrigators.

This system would not only encourage the highest and best value use of the water but would also allow property owners to retain their allocations and as a result not devalue their properties.

I trust that the QCA will endeavour to set a fair and equitable fee and price path for the Central Brisbane scheme and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this submission for your consideration during your determinations.

Yours Sincerely



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Ken Schmidt

Director Rivermead Pty Ltd

Past Chairman MBRI Inc. 2006 – 2011