

2 May 2013

Dr Ron Ben-David
Chairperson
Essential Services Commission
Level 37/2 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Dr Ben-David,

Support for Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project

I write to you on behalf of the Harcourt Water Services Committee and the local community in support of the Harcourt Rural Modernisation Project.

As you are aware the Committee was established by Coliban Water in November 2008 to provide community input into the feasibility of the project and ultimately to assist with the development of the business case. The committee is made up of nine local landowners who hold water entitlements in the Harcourt rural system.

The Harcourt area is well known for its fruit growing industry which provides high quality produce and supports local businesses and employment. The project will eliminate unsustainable water losses and provide a more accessible and reliable rural water service to customers. It will also provide greater business certainty to many local irrigators and businesses which will in turn provide benefits to the broader community and region.

Through forward planning and a common sense approach the project also provides additional water security for the towns of Castlemaine and Kyneton by providing key infrastructure for connection to Bendigo when it becomes necessary.

The committee fully endorses and supports the implementation of this project and believes that it is essential for the future prosperity of the region.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on (0438) 544317.

Yours faithfully



Tim Robertson
Chairman
Harcourt Water Services Committee