

Dear Jason,

Following a recent telephone conversation with Jason and my attendance at a public meeting held in Echuca recently in which the Water Minister was in attendance I have decided to write to you both with a couple of points which in my view need to be addressed by the ESC.

My first concern is regarding NEWGATE.

Newgate's research carried out on behalf of Goulburn Murray Water is very questionable.

For example Newgate carried out a survey totalling 62 Irrigation Customers of the total numbers of customers in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District. As a Customer in this district I feel that this is a very poor indepth number of interviews carried out.

Total for Torrumbarry was 9

And Loddon Valley totalled 10 Customers interviewed.

I was one such Irrigators that participated in the Loddon Valley district and found the interview carried out was in PARROT Fashion from the Interviewer.

At the conclusion I was informed that I could ring her back later (the person doing the interview) which I did. In fact three times over a period of 4 consecutive days and was unsuccessful in making contact with this person. The telephone number given to me took my messages but received no response.

It has become very clear after the Meeting in Echuca that

(a) Single Pricing is not on simply because any Business that costs 67% from its Central Administration area should have to be questioned WHY this high inappropriate costings are so high and how do they occur. Substantiation is surely needed.

(b) Each district by district would have enormous variances in its local costings simply by Supply, Delivery, Frequency of Use-age (Water orders) etc. To average these total costs over the whole GMID is simply not effective or acceptable.

(c) After the meeting at Echuca several Irrigators including myself were fortunate enough to have a discussion with Mr Mike Walsh who made it very clear that by the time all the current LEGAL costs and completion of works that needed to be done it was highly likely that there would be very little financial funding left to complete the Connections Program to all Irrigators.

(d) Mr Mike Walsh commented further that in the future if funds permitted only works that show a real water savings would be considered.

So this brings to mind Service Point fees in the future. If some areas are left with a different level of Service by GM-Water e.g Mag flow meters or the Dethridge Wheel metering, then their will have to be a different service charge based on REAL costings to maintain this infrastructure. Not be a one price across the board is suitable for all Irrigators.

Hoping to catch up with you at the Kerang Meeting in Kerang in April.

If you require clarification of my points feel free to telephone me.

Kind regards.

Colin Fenton

21st March 2016