

Tabled at Hearing on 18 November 2015

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Point 6 Water Allocation

Q&A are told we are overallocated. On paper 400 l/s sec which is fine when the river flows well. But when it drops the self limiting effect comes to play but the paper stays at 400 l/s why the hang up. Is this a challenge to see if we can bring more water out just to make sure we meet this expectation by Ecan.

We are focused on the now but in 10 years time we are expected to reduce takes from surface water by 25%. The options aren't easy and are limited.

9 Water quality

which we have met and have it. Hardee to talk more to this

10 The Plan & overseas

Plan to be simple to comply with and the need for flexibility if it turns out wrong when put into practice.

We shouldn't close out minds to other options which may not have been explored yet.

(12) To increase income to cover compliance costs
For example I have land on both sides of the
Ohio River about 5km from Pontage.

At this time I conservatively farm that landage.
I could however increase production by
using nitrogenous fertilizers which will require
more water which will achieve a higher
stocking rate which in return will
probably have some side effects environmentally.

(21) River levels.
The current situation.

It's worse than last year on the springs
didn't get any recharge last winter and
the river is all but stopped running at our
place.

All irrigators are experiencing some self
limiting already.

Our 63th a sec constant is self limited
down to about 33th a sec at a constant
rate.

Crops have the most crucial time ahead of them
as they produce seed.

For us arable farmers the last category
is the profit margin as we have got the
crops up with all the inputs waiting for so
we have taken up irrigation to give us
that reliability that's the whole point of
it. To mitigate the dry years.

Something with Gowing

(23)

Have the commissioners visited the Ottau
Lagoon.

Its name only.

Once you've been then why would you go back

to go back to the top of the river the
Ottau Gorge is a significant geographical
area where lots of camping takes place
in the pristine environment.

(25)

Stock Water.

I would like to see our stock water
takes kept totally separate from our
irrigation consents. as they have in
the past. Animal Health should stand
head and shoulders above all else other
than our own drinking water.

I was asked what would I do if we
weren't allowed to take stock drinking water
and I suppose I would have to break the
law as I wouldn't let my stock go without.

(27)

Question. Can you commissioners come
back to us with your updated
directions to the plan before
its made operative.

My Point:

I'm angry about the way we as farmers are made to look like the bad guys.

The nutrient issue seems to assume we have heaps of money to throw away by over zealously fertilizing to the point of waste - who would do that?!

Do Ecan staff take 50 notes out of their pockets and throw them to the wind - I don't think so.

Nobody can tell us what effects these limitations will have on ~~improving~~ environment other than a feel good

I would conclude by asking for common sense and balance when setting limits and GTR on the side of caution.

The bar should be something we all aspire to achieve and be proud to get there by best practice