

QCA irrigation workshop: issues arising

[This note records issues identified and views expressed by stakeholders present at the meeting. The QCA is yet to form any opinion on these issues and views. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in the QCA's draft report.]

Scheme: Central Brisbane River WSS

Date: Friday 6 February 2019

Introduction

- Some stakeholders said that the QCA needs to make sure that it accurately reflects the views of scheme members when preparing its draft report. In their view, the last review's discussion of stakeholder submissions was not representative of scheme members' views. Stakeholders would like to see a better level of communication and engagement by the QCA for this review.
- Mid Brisbane River Irrigators (MBRI) clarified that Seqwater's regulatory submission was a joint submission with the MBRI. MBRI will now make a formal submission to that effect so that there is no ambiguity on this point.

Government pricing principles

- Stakeholders wanted to know whether the referral notice constrained the QCA in any way in the extent to which it could assess this issue. They said that the referral notice assumes that irrigators in the Central Brisbane River WSS receive a service when, in their view, this is not the case.

Pricing framework

- Some stakeholders wanted to know whether the QCA would take the performance of scheme assets into account when recommending the Fixed (Part A) charge.

Seqwater's proposed costs

- MBRI jointly commissioned a report with Seqwater which concluded that scheme irrigators receive no benefit from scheme assets beyond what they would receive in the absence of these assets.
- MBRI would prefer to have this threshold issue resolved prior to the QCA issuing its draft report.
- MBRI said that, were the QCA to determine that there is a service in place, it would like the opportunity to make a submission on an appropriate headworks utilisation factor for apportioning their share of costs.

Other issues

- Stakeholders commented that they would like to see a fee for service arrangement and that were the QCA to determine that irrigators in the scheme do not receive a service, then the QCA fee should not apply to them.