

THIRD ROUND CONSULTATION – ISSUES ARISING

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

Scheme: Lower Fitzroy WSS

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Regulatory Framework

Risks

- Concerns raised about the allocation of risk. Irrigators should not bear all risk. SunWater should bear some risk.

Renewals Expenditure

- ***Eden Bann Weir:*** the Weir was built for Stanwell's benefit and the associated costs should not be paid for by irrigators. The weir has not increased water reliability. Irrigators should not pay for the weir if it does not supply a benefit.
- The HUF overstates the benefit of the infrastructure to medium priority irrigators. The scheme was built for Stanwell's benefit and Stanwell should be allocated all costs. Irrigators use a very small amount of water and should not pay towards an asset that does not provide a benefit.

Prices

- The \$30,000 irrigation scheme revenue means that it is not worth SunWater collecting this small amount.

Water Use

- There is no intention for any irrigators to use the water in the future. There is no irrigation industry. The river is reliable enough without the weir – the weir which created the WAE is not needed. The soil is not suitable for irrigation and the likelihood of future use is very small.

Other

- The water level in the weir is 1.8m lower than it was originally and this impacts on irrigation reliability/service standards.

- It is not possible to sell WAE as there are currently no willing buyers and it is not considered that new willing buyers will enter the market.
- The Fitzroy River charge is a concern and irrigators would like this charge to be reviewed by the QCA.
- Irrigators pay for water quality testing but the results are not made available.
- The poor water quality will damage on-farm infrastructure and means that the water cannot be used – therefore there should be no charge.