

FIRST 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 them. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in proposed Issues Papers and in the Authority's reports].

Scheme: Chinchilla Weir Water Supply Scheme

Date: 04-May-10

QCA Contact: Matthew Rintoul (07 3222 0540, matthew.rintoul@qca.org.au)

Scheme Specific Issues

- Tarong Energy a few years ago purchased ten properties (with water entitlement attached to land title) to progress a proposed mineral exploration initiative which eventually was shelved. Who pays for the water not being used but stored?
- Western Downs Regional Council maintains recreational facilities at Chinchilla Weir at a cost to SunWater. Is this an appropriate arrangement?
- Chinchilla township originally providing significant funds to the weir's construction. Although the weir was originally built to support irrigation development and to provide water for Chinchilla township, the primary use of the Chinchilla Weir is currently not for irrigation but to provide water to the township - and the town is growing. Any allocation of costs should reflect the reliance of Chinchilla on the scheme.
- Due to the level of water harvesting (there is approximately 1,500 to 2,000 ML/a of water harvesting entitlements), Chinchilla Weir is not required for irrigation. It only represents a back-up option. Cost implications need to be considered including allocation via conversion factors.
- If there were major refurbishments associated with the Chinchilla Weir and this meant significant increases in prices, then this would be of great concern to irrigators.
- Given the significance of the weir for urban supply, consultation with Chinchilla township (Western Downs Regional Council) is considered important.