

**Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee**

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**From:** Luke Stewart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 November 2015 5:56 PM  
**To:** Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** SUBMISSION,,, PROPOSED WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2015 ....  
submissions close 18 December2015

**Categories:** Submission

## Submission proposed Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

As each water scheme is an entity with its individual characteristics this submission pertains to Tinaroo Dam with its Urban ,Industrial , Leisure ,Tourism & Agriculture interests...

**1) OVER FULL YIELD SECRET RELEASES,**As Tinaroo Dam has been fully allocated for 10+ years the practise of supplying the Hydro above full allocation yield and outside the Water Market should be ceased immediately. There is plenty of water available inside the Permanent and Temporary Water Market

The water currently supplied to the Barron Hydro contains Irrigators Insurance water which they have because they grow mainly long cycle high establishment cost crops and do not plant annual crops like cotton and rice which can be planted according to the water available. Also supplying a major water user outside the Water Market distorts down the Market Price for Permanent Allocation and Temporary Transfer because Irrigators need to pay for their Insurance water even when they cannot find a Temporary Transfer Buyer thus increasing farmers costs.

In many cases the Market Price of Permanent Allocation determines an Irrigators Superannuation

The current practise of supplying the Hydro with over full yield allocation of unallocated water distorts down the security of the regions water...



**2) ENVIROMENT RELEASES** The Stanwell Barron Hydro also uses for free the generous Tinaroo Dam releases for the enviroment  
With the Dam very high up in the Barron catchment it is debatable if these environment releases are necessary.  
If people /groups deem these environment releases necessary then the beneficiaries should pay at the rate Channel Irrigaters pay for their water and the revenue go the the operating cost of the scheme....

**WATER MARKET,,,** The COAG Water Reforms of the Beattie Howard era separated water from land so "Water could find it's way to the highest value use via the market", this is not happening for Tinaroo Dam water...  
The Rudd Govt made grants to the States to upgrade and standardize Water Market Reporting, which is much worse in Qld than other States...Anyone seeking to find Water Sale results for Tinaroo Dam will surely agree...

**CAIRNS ADDITIONAL SUPPLY,,,,,** Even when Nullinga Dam is built Cairns will be supplied with gravity fed water from Tinaroo Dam ...Cairns Council has stated that they intend to use Tinaroo Dam water later but for unclear reasons the Cairns Council has declined to purchase Tinaroo Dam Allocation at the market price of \$700 per ML when they know that the estimated cost of Nullinga Dam water is currently \$6,000 to \$10,000 per ML.The original Barron River ROP (over 10 years ago) allowed for 20,000 ML to come into the Cairns area... If Cairns Council used Tinaroo Dam Allocation there would be no case at all for Tinaroo Dam Environment river releases which the Hydro dumps in the ocean at Cairns..  
There is a problem with the Cairns Council which needs to be rectified, it is a regional liability...

**LOCAL MANAGEMENT,** The 3 Councils involved should be included in the offer of Local Management which the Irrigaters are dealing with...The objective of Local Management should be to supply water as cheaply as possible and the Management Board should include Council Engineers ,Councillors and unpaid representatives.....

Shirley Osborne

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