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Submission No. 002  
11.1.12  
1 December 2015

Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
**BRISBANE QLD 4000**

ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir,

**Invitation to make a submission – *Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015***

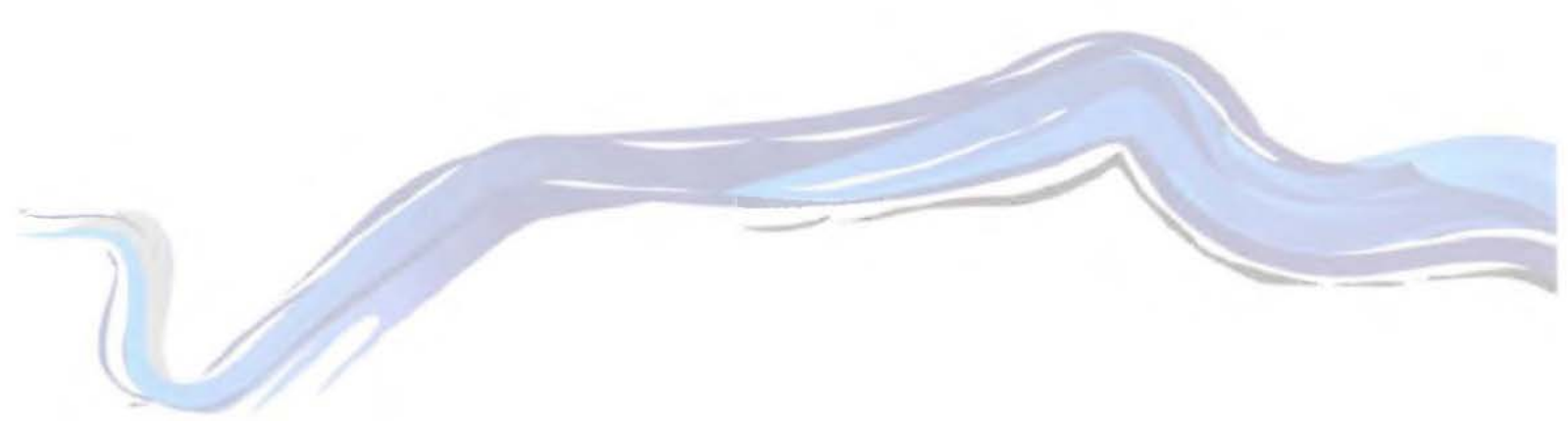
I refer to your correspondence dated 13 November 2015, and thank you for providing Goondiwindi Regional Council with the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the *Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*.

The issue has been considered by Council and we wish to submit an extract from the Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program Stakeholder Engagement Report prepared for the Balonne Shire Council and the Goondiwindi Regional Council.

We consider that this extract reflects Council's views adequately, and have attached the relevant pages for your consideration.



Carl Manton  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



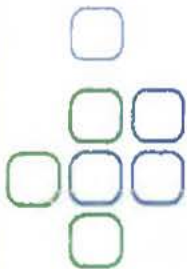
**MURRAY DARLING BASIN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM**

**Investment Attraction Project**

**Stakeholder Engagement Report**

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July – August 2015



Workshops, Interviews, Research and Reports  
compiled by Integra Management Services:  
Ann Houston & Genevieve Golden

for the Balonne Shire Council and Goondiwindi Regional Council



Australian Government

livestock cannot under their licence access the overland flow water unless it was officially registered prior to 2003. It was recommended that with current practices the DSE – Dry Sheep Estimate could be doubled.

Most artesian bores that have been capped have nominated DSE's. This was to ensure supply using the pipeline installed. There is no correlation between water availability and the intended use or underuse of it. Feedlotter must have an irrigation licence or buy artesian water – prohibitively expensive. Respondents felt that landowners should be allowed to use water either way. As only licensed water can be used on feedlot, what are the options for the land holders with no licences?

Currently there is a moratorium on sinking bores for feedlots. There are, however, a number of sleeper allocations that can be bought from within these catchment zones.

In extensive grazing there is "no restriction on how many head of stock or what water is required to handle it for extensive grazing enterprises, but if you add a feedlot there's a problem. You could use all the grain you grow to feed cattle and get a better profit off both, but this is not allowed. Everyone's got the water but can't use it." – Doug Hemming

For every 1,000 head of cattle, 25Mgl is required per year.

## Strategies and or tools to address impediments to business investment

### Freight Costs

#### Optimise Existing Road Transport

Optimise use of roads and existing prime movers by allowing triples and AB Triples at least on the roads that currently are permitted for use during drought periods. Road trains can only pull 2 dogs east of St George. The Castlereagh highway is the boundary. This limits haulage from 6 decks to 4 decks. (An AB triple carry 5 decks).



#### Increase Rail Freight

Incentivise the use of rail, and look at reviewing alternative pricing structures to the 'take or pay' system that currently seems to disadvantage agricultural commodities and produce from accessing their services.

#### Alternate Fuel Sources

Participants in Goondiwindi thought it would be worth considering if the regional gas resources could be processed into diesel for local use. Blue Energy has been working in this space. If this was to go ahead then the processing plant may also be used to produce urea.