

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

From: Doug & Tereasa George
Sent: Friday, 18 December 2015 9:34 AM
To: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: submission to the Water Amendment Bill 2015

In the explanatory notes of the amended Water Amendment Bill 2015 page 1 that the Government's election commitments were to not allow for over allocation of Queensland's precious water resources.

Our local Amamoor Creek Water Advisory Committee would like to put forward the following concerns regarding the possibility/likelihood of over allocation on Amamoor Creek with riparian stock and domestic licences no longer being required and the allocation area being raised.

We of the Water Advisory Committee, object to the Water Amendment Bill on the following grounds.

0.5 ha is too great of an area – the previous area of 0.25 ha was generous;

No Govt control or knowledge of amount of water being taken by stock and domestic users, making it very difficult for these agencies to manage water resources, especially in times of drought. At least when licences were required, the local DNRM knew how many people were able to take water from the waterways.

A creek like Amamoor Creek could become over allocated before the commercial irrigators can get an allocation if volumetric allocations were implemented;

On one hand DNRM has said no more commercial irrigation licences can be issued on Amamoor Creek by legislation as it is fully allocated, but this Bill will double the current stock and domestic take. This combined with the fact that any produce produced on these such areas of land, can be bartered or sold, will give more incentive for people to use these entitlements than at present as Weekend Markets are very popular in this area;

These prospective users would not be subject to voluntary restrictions placed on the creek by the Water Advisory Committees which disadvantages the commercial irrigators who pay annually for their licences and rely on irrigation for their livelihood;

An unsupplemented catchment area such as Amamoor Creek and its tributaries that have a town water supply, commercial irrigators and a large number of unlicensed riparian landholders could be severely over allocated by this proposed legislation.

If you require any further information please feel free to contact either of the following:

Doug George

Don Haylock

Secretary

Vice Chairman

Regards

Doug George