

15/09/19

Wayne Chaffey

[REDACTED]
NEMINGHA NSW 2340

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a licensed Cockburn River irrigator, relying entirely on my farm for income. Living in the area for the last 58 years, I have also been an active member of the local irrigators' association for the past 37 years.

1. *To what extent do you feel the plan has contributed to social outcomes?*

The water sharing plan has caused a lot of negative social outcomes. Crop failures since the introduction of access rules has seen a big decline in agricultural employment and income since 2007. This has also contributed to stress and mental health issues for people the people in the local area.

The average age of the only four remaining farmers is ever increasing. Children have moved away from farming completely, opting for employment in more profitable industries. This will ultimately result in the complete closure of farming in the Cockburn Valley.

2. *To what extent do you feel the plan has contributed to environmental outcomes?*

The environmental outcomes were based on completely false information. Animal species listed as vulnerable have nothing to do with the water flowing in the Cockburn River.

3. *To what extent do you feel the plan has contributed to economic outcomes?*

The plan has caused the total abandonment of irrigated cropping and has cost farmers their income. This has of course flowed on to the wider community, with a wide range of related and non-related industries seeing a decline in customer spending.

4. *To what extent do you feel the plan has contributed to meeting its objectives?*

The plan's only objective was to destroy irrigated farming in the Cockburn Valley, causing a major change in land use of properties relying on access to water.

Under the previous access rules (Water Act 1912), in the 7 years from the year 2000 to 2007, there were 312 days with a cease to pump ban in place. Comparatively, under Water Sharing Plan rules enacted in 2010, the 7 year period from 2012 to 2019 has seen 1459 days with a cease to pump ban in place so far.

It's not hard to see how detrimental this has been to a once thriving industry.

5. *What changes do you feel are needed to the water sharing plan to improve outcomes?*

The only way outcomes could be improved would be to reinstate the pumping access rules which existed prior to 2007, under the Water Act 1912.

The Water Management Act 2000 places environmental goals above common sense in the Cockburn Valley. The continuation of the current rules of this plan will eventually shut down all irrigation from the river, as well the industries that rely on it.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "WG Chaffey". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'W' and 'G' at the beginning.

Wayne Chaffey