

## Submission on Coastal Water Sharing Plans – Richmond River Area Unregulated & Alluvial Water Sources.

- We have an avocado orchard in the [REDACTED] NSW area & grow approximately 14,000 trees.
  - The Plan is too rigid with environmental outcomes as we are only allowed to trade within Terania Creek Catchment. We should be allowed to trade with connecting streams.
  - As we employ 2 Full-time & 3 casuals all year round plus 12 casuals at picking, pruning & injecting seasons, if we were not able to purchase more water allocation, we would not be able to employ as many people & support local businesses with purchases of chemicals, fertilizers, new machinery & fuels etc. We usually spend approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 per year with these businesses in Northern NSW.
  - We feel the Plan has not contributed to meeting objectives as we are not heard by government departments.
  - The changes we feel are needed:
    - are being able to trade with connecting streams
    - have a 40% harvestable right on farms. (The 10% harvestable right is very low & as we have just been through the worst dry period in history, if farmers had been able to store more water they would have been able to cope better
    - Water NSW staff need to be more approachable. All farmers we have talked to say that Water NSW staff seem to be working against the farmer! We need to grow industries not stifle them.
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1. Social Outcomes - None that we can see!
  2. Environmental Outcomes - No benefits – as rainfall in our area is beneficial but not at the right time of year.
  3. Economic Outcomes- Disastrous to farming & Employing people if we can't get enough water allocation.
  4. Meeting Plans objectives- With not enough water it would limit our farming.
  5. Changes to improve outcomes- Listed above



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