



CUTHBERTSON BROS. PTY. LTD.

A.B.N. 50 009 493 627

Postal Address: PO Box 316 Moonah Tas. 7009

13/12/2017

Dear Sirs,

I wish to make a written submission to the select committee to irrigation management by Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd.

Whilst management is essential to successful irrigation the downstream results from irrigation must always be considered. Management should be such that further development, employment, processing and marketing must be kept in mind to provide benefit to those tax payers, who (General Public) contribute to this development. There has been criticism that government support of irrigation is a direct transfer of value from the taxpayer to the land holder without benefit for the tax payer, therefore downstream processing is necessary, where capital expenditure, labour, marketing is required. Public monies should be utilised for all Tasmanians, not just the land owner who benefit greatly.

As a retired Property Valuer, I am aware that a government supported water right increases land values by as much as \$10,000 per hectare. A water right promotes development of approximately \$40,000 per hectare of cherries, grapes, etc.

There is wide acceptance throughout Australia and Asia and Europe that Tasmania with clean green irrigation, produces some of the world premier products, and this has been shown by the marked increase in agricultural scholarships at our university and the amount of overseas applicants.

The management of these supported irrigation schemes is essential to a new industry. Preference must be for downstream processing to proceed from that scheme i.e. broad areas irrigation. The fattening of lamb matter or beef is to be processed within the state with employing, capital, labour and associated businesses. Should this principle not be in the irrigation planning, then the government assisted schemes are up for huge public criticism.

Cuthbertson Bros. Pty Ltd operates an irrigated farm on the Coal River Stage II Scheme. Our property, Springfield, comprises of 525 acres of which we endeavour to water 300 acres annually but generally owing to restricted water, 200 acres in recent times.

Regular price reduction in peas and poppies has forced us to change our farming practice to develop new products. We now produce high grade Lucerne cubes, stored in a specially built shed with a processing plant capable of processing bulk cubes, pellets, horse mixes, stud stock requirements, garden mulch, etc. We obtain 5 cuts per annum with production of 5/6 tons per hectare per annum. To utilise the first cut and any water-damaged Lucerne, we fatten between 5,000 and 8,000 lambs per year. We sell to Melrose Meats, Brisbane. Their requirements are approximately 50,000 per annum. Lambs are processed at Devonport and freighted weekly to Brisbane. The quality is high

Head Office: 88 Gormanston Road, Moonah, Hobart Tas. 7009
Devonport: 11 Devonport Road, Devonport Tas. 7310
Launceston: 94 St Leonards Road, St Leonards Tas. 7250
Richmond: 381 Middle Tea Tree Road, Richmond Tas. 7025

Phone: (03) 6271 2200
Phone: (03) 6423 5926
Phone: (03) 6339 1107
Phone: 0409 681 403

Fax: (03) 6272 3921
Fax: (03) 6424 1554
Fax: (03) 6339 1686
Fax: (03) 6260 1084

and the Tasmanian Brand important. The importance of the lamb production is that they are processed in Tasmania using Tasmanian labour and capital.

The scheme under which we operate has been in operation for approximately 30 years and worked very well for 25 years. Recent years have seen a continual restriction on water usage during the Summer period because of availability of water quota in recent times. This has led to frustrations by existing operations since more water rights have been sold than the existing scheme can handle. As something like 97% of fresh water flows down the Derwent River daily more prominence should be made to expand current schemes.

Norske Skog had offered pumped water and negotiations should have commenced to supply to existing scheme. They no longer require the volume of water they previously required as their industry is changing dramatically. I have talked with their development officer recently and he is available for discussions (Rod Bender).

There is no doubt that our Coal River Stage II scheme has been badly managed. Negative management has cost users thousands of dollars in cost. It is over staffed and there has been no encouragement on winter-fill for empty dams at the right price. This not only takes the pressure off the scheme during summer but provides for more capital investment in the area. Non- transfer between Stage 1, Stage II and Stage III is ridiculous. All schemes should see the benefit of all connected schemes.

I am happy to discuss in detail and in person should it be required.

DOUG DICKINSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Doug Dickinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "DOUG DICKINSON".