

The Secretary

Legislative Council Select Committee – Tasmanian Irrigation

Legislative Council

Parliament House

Hobart 7000

Dear Members

Due to the pressures of the season and the closeness to Christmas I would request that consideration for me to present verbally to the committee be considered.

The development of the Dial/Blythe Irrigation Scheme took place over a long period of time and what started as a local owner operated scheme developed into a whole of government process at the last State Election. While the change of plan extended water supply to a larger area and more participants, the initial owner operated outcome was the stated and desired management strategy.

The initial expressions of interest and the opt in opt out deposits were all explained at public meetings with management at the local level as the end outcome. It was obvious at the signing of the completion, supply contracts that achieving this end aim had diminished and the role of Tasmanian Irrigation and its administrative costs would be ongoing. I felt we were over a barrel, having committed 10% and desperately needing the water was not the time to hold out for the deal we expected.

Tasmanian Irrigation has now entrenched itself as not only developer but as a manager as well. Many of our scheme members believe that this is at too high a cost. Future development of improvements of the scheme are out of the hands of the users. Future management of financial risks are the same.

I would request the time to expand on these themes in person to the committee.

Ben Hiscutt BRRM

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