



Attention: Treasurer, Troy Buswell and Minister for water, Dr Graham Jacobs  
Inquiry into Water Resource Management Charges  
Economic Regulation Authority  
Email: [watercharges@era.wa.gov.au](mailto:watercharges@era.wa.gov.au)  
Fax: (08) 9213 1909

Dear Sirs,

As the owner of a small vineyard located in Pemberton, in the south west of Western Australia I would like to express my concern regarding the Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges and what appears to be a plan to apply water licence fees and water resource management charges.

My objection to this is based on the following:

- a year ago, such a plan was withdrawn by the previous government and now we are being subjected to the same sort of inquiry at a time that the government granted royalties for regions of which the Shire of Manjimup received \$1.5 million and yet the introduction of water licences and fees would see farmers throughout the region having to pay anything up to \$2 million which means that royalties for regions is simply a slight of hand.
- the cost of installing dams to store water which will be used primarily for food production has been privately funded. Will the government reimburse farmers this cost?
- whether or not the application of licences will be applied statewide or only in the proclaimed Warren and Donnelly catchments (Manjimup and Pemberton areas).
- there are 150,000 garden bores in Perth unsustainably using 120 gigalitres of water which will not be subjected water fees and charges.
- that fees and charges may be applied without any compensation and/or reeducation of water management. In other words nothing will change except that the government will collect revenue thus placing a greater burden on farmers without making any significant changes to the management of water per se.

Finally I would expect with or without the introduction of fees or licences that the inquiry would consult people such as Peter Andrews, author of Back from the Brink based on his knowledge and successful management of water and for his forward thinking.

Given the diversity of water resource regions, infrastructure and uses in Western Australia, it is vital the Economic Regulation Authority conduct hearings in major water resource regions during the course of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Terrance Wayne Petersen  
(Owner)

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11<sup>th</sup> June 2009

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Lorraine Brinkman  
BA (UWA) Dip Ed, Grad Cert (Flinders University)