

Not Relevant

6 Cabinet Notes for Discussion

Not Relevant

608 RESTRICTING IRRIGATORS FROM SA WATER'S SYSTEM (Karlene Maywald) –
NOTED WITH **AMENDMENT (MINISTER GAGO DECLARED A CONFLICT OF
INTEREST AND THE AGENDA ITEM WAS CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE MINISTER)**

Not Relevant

TO: PREMIER FOR CABINET TO NOTE

RE: RESTRICTING IRRIGATORS FROM SA WATER'S SYSTEM

1. PROPOSAL

That Cabinet note the intention to restrict irrigation using water from SA Water's system.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. There are three possible classes of irrigator attached to SA Water's infrastructure:

- A number of irrigators have agreements with SA Water for peak or off-peak transportation of water. These irrigators have their own water licences with only transportation provided via SA Water's infrastructure. These irrigators are already subject to the same restrictions on their water licences as any other River Murray irrigator.
- There are 79 irrigators in the scheme associated with the pipeline completed in 2004 to provide filtered and treated River Murray water to townships in the Clare Valley (attachment 1).
- There are an unknown number of other potential irrigators in areas such as the Barossa Valley, Fleurieu Peninsula, Virginia, Adelaide Hills and other parts of the state, who obtained a connection to SA Water's infrastructure many years ago when there was no requirement to specify what the water is used for. Water could therefore be used for any or all of a house, stock watering, some form of irrigation (eg vineyard, olives or a market garden) or even industry (eg winery, packing shed).

2.2. Existing water restrictions deal with dams and tanks on farms. These specify that a farm dam or tank must not be filled with water unless it is being used for domestic or stock consumption or fire-fighting. A permit is required to fill a dam or tank for any other reason. The recently introduced water efficiency planning regulations cover any 'industrial' operations that might be associated with irrigation, such as a packing shed or winery.

2.3. However, there are presently no restrictions on the irrigation of commercial crops using water from SA Water's reticulation system.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. Due to the drought in the Murray-Darling basin, SA Water's country licence has been restricted to 31 GL in 2007/08, compared to the normal full licence of 50 GL. Based on an assessment of available water, SA Water has advised that it is desirable to place some limitations on water use for irrigation purposes to help ensure the country licence is not exceeded. On the basis that Clare scheme irrigators use 1,294 ML/annum and other irrigators are estimated to use 1,500 ML/annum, the water saving from applying a 22% restriction on irrigation customers would be 2,347 ML/annum.
- 3.2. It is proposed that, to restrict irrigation from SA Water's system, a general water restriction be Gazetted that prohibits irrigation except with a permit.
- 3.3. In assessing a permit application, SA Water would start with the applicant's average annual water use (eg over the last three to five years), take into account any homes or stock watering on the property, and then apply a restriction to the remaining annual quantity of water. It is considered appropriate to set the percentage restriction at the same level applying to River Murray licence holders (22% from 1 December 2007).
- 3.4. Given that part of the water year has already passed, annual permitted water use will be allocated on a pro rata basis. As irrigator's allocations increase, the percentage applying to irrigators from SA Water's system would also increase.
- 3.5. It is proposed that the restrictions on irrigation from SA Water's system apply from 1 January 2008. This would allow for the change to be communicated to growers, and for them to consider their management options in response.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet notes:

- 4.1. The intention to restrict commercial irrigation using water from SA Water's system from 1 January 2008 to a level equivalent to River Murray irrigators.

*Pro-rata with reduction in Country Water Allocation level.
Min. for Environment*

K Maywald

Karlene Maywald
MINISTER FOR WATER SECURITY

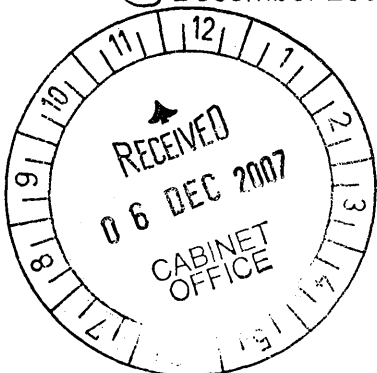
3 December 2007

*Declared Conflict
of interest & left*

In Cabinet

10 DEC 2007

NOTED *[Signature]*
ACTING PREMIER



CLARE VALLEY SCHEME IRRIGATORS

Name	Property Location	Quantity
6(1) Personal affairs		3
		15
		20
		15
		70
		30
		8
		12
		6
		100
		4
		15
		6
		200
		5
		10
		10
		8
		7
		10
		6
		12
		3
		3
		10
		5
		10
		10
		6
		12
40		
10		
19		
3		
10		
6		
5		
9		
5		
7		
172		
4		
5		

6(1) Personal affairs

30
3
5
4
2
4
2
12
30
4
7
8
5
3
5
3
22
3
4
23
15
50
7
3
2
4
10
6
25
2
3
8
2
5
11
6
8
10