

Mr. Jock Chudacek
CEO, Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board,
Department Of Primary Industry and Water
5th Floor Marine Board Building
1 Franklin Wharf,
Hobart 7000

30/10/08.

Dear Jock,

Re: Midlands Irrigation Scheme and “Irrigation Tasmania”.

Further to our meeting of the 9th inst. please find attached a dot point list of the concerns of Tasmania’s licensed anglers regarding the Midlands scheme, as agreed.

We would appreciate your advice as to when you will be ready to receive a small delegation concerning these matters also as agreed. We suggest that this could take place at the Inland Fisheries Services in New Norfolk.

Clearly the attached list is to ensure that you are aware of all our concerns but cannot be countenanced in a single meeting in addition to which we assume that many items are beyond your control. When you have notified us of a convenient meeting date we will furnish a practical agenda for initial discussions..

Following this meeting and the receipt of your Board’s views we will place this before our expert panel and prepare a complete response to both Government and anglers in general. It is likely that we will present these views to our constituents at a mass meeting. You would recall that whilst we were happy to put a small reference group together I suggested that anglers may still wish for such a meeting to take place and questioning has confirmed my view.

You would note from the attached that in addition to direct questions anglers wish to be better informed on the science behind your irrigation plans and this could well apply to the overall published irrigation initiatives. The feeling generally is an objection to the lack of information, the tight reply period for comment and the general nature of the “carte blanche” and “at all costs” approach from your Board. From an angling community perspective the matter has been very badly handled thus far.

We note that you wish to separate engineering logistics for these schemes from the politics involved. After consulting with our executive, again the general view is that these are predominantly inseparable issues, particularly when anglers have little trust in the Governments approach to water issues and their approach to the governance of the Inland Fisheries Service.

We look forward to your advice on a suitable time to further discuss these matters and avail ourselves for any further information that you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Richard C. Dax
(Chairman)