

## **PRELIMINARY MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN TASMANIA'S IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND ANGLERS ALLIANCE TASMANIA.**

### **We wish to know the science and reliability behind:**

- ✚ Sustainable water levels in Arthurs Lake.
- ✚ Flows in Brumbys Creek and effects on the Macquarie.
- ✚ Downstream effects in the South Esk.
- ✚ How 98% surety of irrigation waters can be achieved.
- ✚ Surety of Arthurs in flows.
- ✚ Dangers of salinity.
- ✚ Taking of Poatina water for South of Cressy and the Lake River irrigators.
- ✚ Research into evaporative processes.

### **We wish to be informed of:**

- ✚ Why the short lead times. Will all views be taken into account even if not expressed before the 31<sup>st</sup> October?
- ✚ Why Government considers that the Midlands and other schemes are a “fait accompli” without community consultation?
- ✚ Why no community groups other than farmers have been consulted and minimal advertising inviting comment provided?
- ✚ Why has irrigation infrastructure been completed before open consultation and closure of public interest?
- ✚ Why are the Midlands Scheme and the next 10 proposals being countenanced (as if definite) before the conclusion of the CSIRO “Water for a Healthy Country” research on “Estimating Water Yields in Tasmania in 2030 complete” findings is concluded?
- ✚ The future consultation process for stakeholders.
- ✚ What socio economic studies have been carried out?

### **It is evident that:**

- ✚ Clearly none of the proposed schemes meet the Commonwealth's requirements for funding.
- ✚ The water resources stated do not match reality.
- ✚ No business plans exist for the scheme's water once provided to irrigators.
- ✚ The Minister has conflicting interests.
- ✚ There has been no thought for other stakeholders or their financial and social values including the value of the recreational fishery and effects on private infrastructure.
- ✚ Uncapped water rights should cease.

### **What are the mitigation strategies for?**

- ✚ Enduring changes in weather patterns and dry trends
- ✚ Sureties in this event given that the plans are perpetual.
- ✚ Salinity.
- ✚ An Arthurs Lake split

- ✚ The addictive nature of irrigation.
- ✚ Arthur's turbidity.
- ✚ A diminished fishery and IFS income and viability
- ✚ Increases in electricity and water prices.
- ✚ Processes for the suspension or cancellation of perpetual rights should the present weather patterns continue.

### **What are the controls on?**

- ✚ Numbers and sizes of travelling irrigators.
- ✚ .How water is used and in what quantities.
- ✚ Environmental flows and minimum lake levels.
- ✚ Administration of schemes.
- ✚ Environmental and ecological issues including farm management practices.

### **What are the public returns from?**

- ✚ Sale of public water.
- ✚ Increases in farm values subsidized by the tax payer.
- ✚ Sales of public water to private irrigation schemes.

### **We believe it reasonable:**

- ✚ If these schemes proceed the IFS is compensated from any losses in amenities or income through lessening of license sales.
- ✚ That independent authorities/consultants are included to oversee planning of any scheme.
- ✚ The views of the RPDC and the EPA must be included.
- ✚ Lake levels must have a minimum level fixed independently and enshrined through legislation.
- ✚ Water flows must be environmentally sound, fixed by an independent body and subject to ongoing research according to prevailing conditions.
- ✚ All views to be considered whether received by the 31<sup>st</sup> October or not.
- ✚ Given the major tax payer inputs then greater access and sound riparian behaviour must be provided by recipients.
- ✚ If such irrigation plans should come into effect then greater controls and opportunities for public inputs must apply to damming of feeder streams.
- ✚ Full costing of Hydro water foregone to be provided and these to be at the highest procurable rates such as imported Victorian power.
- ✚ That evidence of the Hydro's right to sell public water is provided.
- ✚ That balanced and detailed public information is released on all schemes.
- ✚ It is also possible that irrigation schemes may improve certain fisheries and we believe that quality research should consider positive as well as negative effects.
- ✚ That a system for ongoing monitoring of irrigation usage be introduced to eliminate the practice of maximum usage and then the aftermath of appeals for further allocations.