

Please consider this my submission to your enquiry into severe weather events. We are farming in Nannup, the centre of the South west of Western Australia, and have been since 1985. We estimate our farm production is down by at least 60 % compared to 5 years ago. We are a small mixed farm engaged in horticulture and production of beef, pork, and eggs. We are experiencing dry winters and very humid hot , long summers without rain . The sun is scorching and sometimes killing passionfruit vines, tomatoes, capsicum . Onions are stewing in the ground.Huge resources in time and money are now needed to irrigate crops which use to not need irrigation such as onions, sunflowers, late winter potatoes, fruit trees and grapes. Our water supplies are running out and as a result half our cropping areas have been abandoned. Our long term average rainfall is more than 1000 mm per annum. In 2010 we had 450 mm for the year. We use to be able to run 10 cows, their calves and a bull, and 30 ewes and their lambs on our property, and make hay. We now struggle to feed 5 cows, buy in hay and no longer run sheep. Diseases in fruit are rife due hitherto-for unknown high humidity. We are not at all surprised that farmers are seeking work in other fields as there is no money in it and it's very heartbreaking. I have never been a winger till the last 5 years. I am alarmed that a few individula growers have huge water allocations from the Yarragadee aquifer and other sources. They are draining the aquifers fast for monetary gain.

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