

GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER'S

STATEMENT BY - QUEENSLAND COUNCIL, MA

WATER POLICY DOCUMENT

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Q.C.

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The entrenched if not by now blatant – in terms of the callous disregard for the citizens of our regional centres, it is timely to remind the Government that they are not above the law.

Rather, we would tend to think that when any citizen is faced with the acquisition of their right to a livelihood in circumstances where there will never be any just compensation meted out to neither the citizen nor the town itself, then in those circumstances, the law must provide a remedy and must, in the circumstances, curtail the action of government.

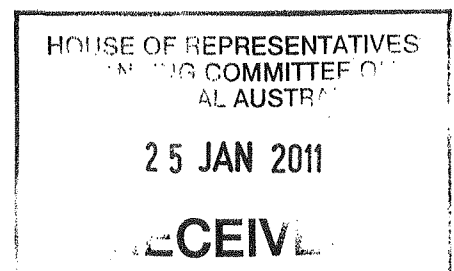
It is proposed that the Government, as we anticipate, will further determine that they will disregard what has to occur concerning the points that we have put in our Water Point Plan and, in doing so, will seek to deny and deprive each and every citizen of a regional centre so affected of not only their right to work, but also of their right to a livelihood and to the amenities that come concomitant with such a livelihood.

The recent tragedy of the floods in Queensland and Victoria have highlighted how we are at the mercy of the elements, but we don't have to be at the mercy of the government.

In proposing recourse to the law, we are indicating to the government that class actions or such representative proceedings as may be advised will be instituted under Part IVA of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976*.

Such procedures permit an applicant to sue a respondent both on the applicant's own behalf and on behalf of other persons who have a relevantly similar claim against that respondent.

We intend to institute class actions concerning the economic dislocation and the damage that will be sustained by all members of the appropriate class in the Griffith region in both agricultural, professional and such other pursuits as they are affected and come to suffer damage as a result of the implementation of the water policy by the Federal Government.



Such a course of action is neither frivolous nor is it vexatious. The legislation and any amount of attempts to create privative clauses will not determine whether judicial review can be eroded and, more importantly, excluded. In all the circumstances, a class action is both proper and will be brought at the first available opportunity as soon as the government exhibits and discerns its deft determination to deprive the citizens of Griffith of their right to a livelihood by reason of the resource allocation with water as has occurred.

The failure to implement the 99 year infrastructure program which would have enabled an equitable sharing and a preservation of the infrastructure for the distribution of water rights is but a firm example of the sheer bloody-mindedness of the Federal Government and the use of the instrumentalities such as the ACCC to bludgeon their policies against citizens who are held to ransom and for no better reason than that they chose to live and work in Griffith. Such a callous disregard for the citizens and the effort put in to enable the gross national product of this nation to be augmented cannot be allowed to pass. It requires and will have meted out swift response in the form of a class action to be instituted without any qualm as to the effect that such an action would propose.

The government is on notice we will not lie down and allow them to ride rough shot over us!