

Lionola Farming Pty Ltd
David Lashbrook

Dear Senate Select Committee

I am writing this letter for my concerns about price of water & the effects it will have on our Community.

- June 2014 water trading @ \$50Megalitre, still unsustainable to grow crops to make a living, but only to top up our allocation as we never seem to get our 100% allocation any more, and yet we have to **pay our full entitlement**, there always seems to be excuses why water is unable to be retained in the dams
- 2015 South Australian State Government entered the Temporary Water market, instead of starting the Desalination Plant
- May - June 2015 @\$55.00 Megalitre South Australian Government enters the market
- July 2015 @\$200-\$220

It might be cheaper to buy water than running a Desalination Plant but they received money from the Federal Government to build this plant.

At the price of water \$200-\$220 Megalitre, all farmers are out of the market to purchase water to grow crops to feed the people of Australia, with only 49 % Water Allocation 2014-2015 season, no one had a lot of carryover. It seems a bit unfair that a Government can enter a market with unlimited monies, knowing no one else can compete against their price.

At this point and time, if I purchase 200 Megalitres to top up my allocation there is no profit, at present we have 12% allocation, regardless what percentage I get, we will still have to pay for 100% of our Water Allocation, which is unsustainable.

In the Community young people are getting off farm jobs instead of coming back to farms as the price of water for young generation farmers they will never be able to pay for a Farm and go ahead and progress.

In our community of Coleambally, originally had 370 farms, all had families living on them, now only one in three farms have someone living on them.

With allocations going on a **downward spiral**, the impact this **has and is having** on our community is **unimaginable**, our Community Club is not far from closing its doors.

No one is going out & socialising within the Community as much, because water allocations are so low, it has a massive impact on the families, as we don't know what our income is going to be anymore from year to year, as we are very reliant on our Water Allocation for production.

The Snowy Mountain Scheme was put in place to **feed** Australia.

The water is a very valuable commodity, it was not put in place to be traded for money.

Regards
David Lashbrook