

Ian Holland, Committee Secretary,

The residents of Innamincka SA and surrounding areas would like to submit an objection to the proposed extraction of water from Cooper Creek in Queensland.

Past studies by various parties have concluded that the Cooper cannot sustain extra large scale water extraction, and the township of Innamincka, being at the end of the Cooper flow, will face hardship if more water were to be taken.

This year, 2009, Cooper Creek ceased to flow at Innamincka causeway on 29 August. All town water is pumped from the creek.

The town services the tourist industry (up to 30,000 visitor nights in a season), the general travelling public, and is in the centre of the Cooper basin oil and gas industry.

Regular pulses and floods are needed to flush the creek and to spread into the channels and flood plains to sustain the cattle industry.

The RAMSAR listed Coongie lakes system relies heavily on flood waters reaching it via the north arm of the Cooper.

Environment problems have been associated with large scale water usage in other river systems, and we fear that the Cooper system will suffer disastrous effects if similar practices are followed here.

Our wish is to let the Cooper flow.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of all Innamincka residents,

Joan Osborne