
Input re Fitzroy-Derby water

From [REDACTED]

Date Fri 29/05/2026 9:03 AM

To Fitzroy Derby Water Planning <fitzroyderbywaterplanning@dwer.wa.gov.au>

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Hello

I understand your agency is accepting input regarding the Fitzroy-Derby water planning.

I am writing as an individual Australian with an interest in this subject. I am particularly frustrated Australian resources are given away and not being appropriately valued. As a Tour Guide I have worked in the Kimberley area and anticipate that decisions made now will have significant financial, environmental and cultural consequences in future. Please take care.

I appreciate there is balance between environmental and cultural preservation with economic development in the region and that water licences will be introduced for the Fitzroy-Derby water planning.

My question is - will businesses granted licenses pay for the water or is it free?

My recommendation is that there must be a market value cost per megalitre for the water, eg comparable to the Murray-Darling. There must be time limits of 10 years on the licenses in order to provide opportunity to review the consequences of each licence after 10 years and to ensure the value as well as the terms and conditions of the licence continue to be in the best interests of WA, the environment and cultural heritage.

Despite the Government enthusiasm to stimulate business in the region, giving away precious water resources is not sound policy for the following reasons:

\$ sends the message that WA water is not a valuable resource. Businesses accessing the water won't value it either. They will take it for granted and be wasteful because it's no cost to them, at the expense of the environment. Early entrants will also likely request more water than needed and limit access for other potential users.

\$ sends the message that WA water planners are not savvy enough to negotiate robust financial contracts for the greater public benefit of WA and the environment.

\$ those responsible for granting licenses may be corrupted by receiving private payments for access to the water. When there is a standard pricing system there is greater transparency and it is less likely that businesses will offer alternative incentives to secure access.

\$ once private, unscrutinised licenses are granted, businesses may lock out access to traditional owners from their cultural heritage.

\$ future legal battles to address any environmental and cultural impacts.

WA Government has an opportunity to receive ongoing revenue for the precious resources they have to offer. They can create a system that is fair, transparent and equitable for all potential customers. The revenue generated can in turn be allocated to improving infrastructure, particularly within the Indigenous communities within the Fitzroy-Derby region.

Don't be fooled to think that businesses won't be interested in investing in WA if there is a cost of water or a licence time limit.

Any businesses who are enthusiastic about area in the first place, will pay for the water. It's a cost of business and tax deductible. Given large multi national corporations historically contribute very little to the economy by paying fair taxes, you would be wise to get them to pay upfront for the water.

Again, please take care now to build the most robust, sustainable, transparent system possible. Take the time to be strong and smart leaders.

Regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Sent from my iPhone