



Hon. Colin Tincknell MLC

Member for the South West Region

*Legislative Council of Western Australia
One Nation Party WA*



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PHON Takes On Water Issues in Food Bowl of the South West

A water tax grab by the McGowan Government would require a Black Truffle grower in Manjimup using 17 megalitres of water from their own dam to pay the same \$6,668 for a water licence renewal as the Ord Irrigation Cooperative licenced to use 246,300 megalitres from the Ord River. But not if Pauline Hanson's One Nation have the numbers.

Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation in WA Colin Tincknell MLC met with food producers at their properties in Manjimup this week to prepare for disallowance of regulations for the costly water licence fees.

Mr Tincknell said the McGowan Government was introducing costly water licence fees initially for the mining industry and public water supply but would extend them to agriculture.

Mr Tincknell raised example costs based upon the available licence fee schedule, including:

- a marron producer in Manjimup with a water licence for 13 megalitres paying the same \$6,668 for a licence renewal as the Water Corporation licenced to use 53,800 megalitres from Serpentine Dam.
- a caravan park operator in Manjimup accommodating fruit pickers with a water licence for 13 megalitres paying the same \$6,668 for a licence renewal as the Water Corporation licenced to use 34,200 megalitres from Canning Dam.
- a wine producer in Manjimup with a water licence for 60 megalitres paying the same \$6,668 for a licence renewal as an irrigation cooperative licenced to use 11,000 megalitres from Logue Brook dam.

Mr Tincknell said the high fees are not limited to Manjimup. A wine producer in Margaret River with a water licence for 15 megalitres would pay the same \$6,668 for a licence renewal as a sandalwood producer licenced to use 20,000 megalitres from the Ord River.

"There are 13,000 water licences for dams and bores in WA, but this absurdly high "one-size-fits-all" fee will hit small family-based farmers the hardest.

"There is no logic in separating the licence fee approach on mining from agriculture as they often use the same aquifers and dams. The Government is trying a grubby 'divide and conquer' strategy and Mr Tincknell said PHON wouldn't fall for it.



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“I will be moving a disallowance motion for the regulations enabling the initial new fees for mining, to kill the water tax grab at birth, before it can spread to agriculture. I encourage the Liberals, Nationals and Greens to join us in the vote on disallowance.”

A similar water tax grab by the former State Labor Government was twice disallowed in the Legislative Council in 2007 and 2008.”

“Labor has a short memory but can’t resist attacking farming families and mining.

“Mark McGowan made an Election promise there would be no new charges and taxes on business; he should not be rewarded for broken promises,” Mr Tincknell said.

Mr Tincknell said the food producers in Manjimup were not opposed to paying a water licence fee. “If we take the fees for a Driver’s Licence as a tested benchmark for Government service; being \$89.15 for a New Applicant Fee and \$149.50 for Licence Renewal for five years. These benchmark fees could be applied to water licences.”

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