

Manjimup and Pemberton Landowners
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2 March 2018

Hon Michael McCormack MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Minister

IMPROPRIETY OF \$40 MILLION GRANT TO SOUTHERN FORESTS IRRIGATION SCHEME, WA

We write to provide for your information the attached letter to the Hon Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources on 'DENIAL OF PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS FOR FOOD PRODUCERS IN MANJIMUP WA' of 20 February 2018, and to seek your assistance. The letter to the Minister is regarding closure of access to self-supply water to favour the Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme, which is the subject of an application for \$40 million under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

We request your assistance, understanding the Ministerial responsibility for the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund previously with the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources has been transferred to you.

We are seeking your assistance to:

- recover the rights to water of farming families that have been stripped of their rights to favour a corporatised and subsidised Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme seeking \$40 million, and
- leverage the Western Australian Government to comply with applicable water resources legislation providing for statutory water resource management plans and for stakeholder consultation at peak and local levels.

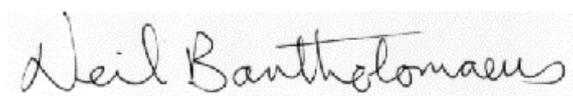
Minister we respectfully submit that you can give effect to the assistance we seek by advising the Western Australian Government that preconditions for any further consideration of \$40 million funding for the Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme be that:

- rights to water for self-supply water users be restored in the fourteen sub-catchments of the Warren and Donnelly Rivers that were closed for new water licences on 16 November 2017, and
- a statutory Warren-Donnelly Water Resource Management Plan be prepared, addressing both the interests of self-supply water users and a potential irrigation scheme.

At present in WA, the Minister for Water and Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food, seem more interested in opportunistic politics than ensuring farming families in Manjimup and elsewhere in WA are allowed procedural fairness and rights under relevant legislation ([please see media release of 20 February 2018](#)).

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request for assistance.

Yours sincerely



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Convener
Manjimup and Pemberton Landowners
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(Attachments)