

Water Inquiry

Question on Notice

Wayne Chaffey

1. The CHAIR: To summarise, could you take a guess at the total economic loss in the Cockburn Valley?

If all available irrigated land was in production, the following results could be seen:

- Approximately 700ha total irrigated production area
- 10,285 tonnes of Lucene hay produced, equating to:
 - 360,000 small square bales of hay
 - Worth approximately \$4 million

Based on the current yield of the Cockburn Valley, the following results can be seen:

- Approximately 400ha total irrigated production area
- 5,942 tonnes of Lucene hay produced, equating to:
 - 208,000 small square bales of hay
 - Worth approximately \$2.3 million

Based on reduced production, there has been a direct loss of \$1.7 million per year.

When amplified into the wider Tamworth Region, it can be argued that a loss of over \$4.25 million per year has been sustained.