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Regulation Committee Inquiry

Impact and implementation of the Water Management (General) Amendment (Exemptions for Floodplain Harvesting) Regulation 2020

Wednesday 29 July 2020

Question on Notice:

From Justin Field MLC

Are you concerned this regulation will set up a future compensation claim if those levels of take are sought to be reduced once the licensing arrangements are finalised?

Response:

The compensable rights under the Water Management Act are in relation to licenced water under Water Sharing Plans. (WMA Division 9 Cl 87)

The issuing of new licences will not trigger compensation based on current unregulated take under the exemption regulation.

Once floodplain harvesting licences are issued, compensation can be claimed if Government policy changes during the life of a Water Sharing Plan.

This highlights the need, as stated during the Hearing, that the allocation of new licences must be undertaken with great care.

Bev Smiles
President