

**INQUIRY INTO STATUS OF WATER TRADING IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Mr Kenneth England

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Partially
Confidential

I applied to transfer (sell) 10 ML of my total 30 ML groundwater Irrigation License to my neighbor in July 2020. About two months later I received a phone call from a department employee saying it appeared to be a straight forward and she couldn't see any problem. The State Water employee also contacted the proposed purchaser to give them the same message and to have them pay a fee of around \$1200. We were all informed that the transaction would take around 6 months.

After around 9 months, and several phone calls chasing the result up, I received correspondence saying the transfer had been denied, despite the departments initial recommendation saying that it would make no change to the amount of water taken from the underground source. The transfer was denied on the grounds that the contract Hydrogeologist report stated that it would lower the water table in adjoining bores.

This proposed sale would be extracting 10 ML less out of my bore and 10 ML more out of my neighbor's. A following phone conversation indicated to myself and that it would be alright for me to run a poly pipe under the road, 500 meters to my neighbor's property and sell him 10 ML of irrigation water, but I couldn't sell him water to pump out of his bore on the same aquifer.

This whole process has been very frustrating and as the enclosed documents show, nonsensical, based on flawed science I believe

We started this whole process because I have a 30 ML entitlement that I couldn't use on the bit of pasture grass that I have, and my neighbor has a productive vineyard with an entitlement of only 15 ML, and could use another 10 ML to bring their vines into higher production

We are still waiting for a further phone meeting with State Water when all parties are available.

While all this was going on, I received an email from another State Water employee, asking me if I wanted to BUY more water. He was promptly told that I was trying to SELL water, not BUY it.

I hope that this submission brings to your attention some of the frustration being experienced by farmers

Yours Faithfully
Ken England