

Coliban Water Investigation Committee
Members of Sub-Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 27th, 7.30pm

In Attendance

I Reid (Acting Chairman)
Ken Read
Kath Read (Secretary CWIC)
Merv Pitson
Cr. Maurice Sharkey
John Scott
Barnie Mannes

Apologies

Mark Brown (Chairman CWIC)

Purpose of Meeting

1. To address the proposed changes by Coliban Water for rural supplies.
2. To address the submission that the Harcourt group put to Coliban Water.

Cr. Maurice Sharkey reported on the support from the Greater City Of Bendigo. The mayor had agreed to convene a public meeting on the request of the CWIC. This offer has bow been withdrawn.

The City have had a meeting with Coliban Water and Coliban Water are going to convene two public information meetings, one in Bendigo and one at Harcourt.

The Bendigo meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

1. A motion was put that the proposed CWIC public meeting be deferred. The motion lapsed for the want of a seconder.
2. It was moved that Coliban be asked to defer the signing of the agreements with the users until Friday, October 31st, 1997

Md Ken Read
Sec John Scott
Carried

3. Ken Read tabled a detailed analysis of the agreement procedure by Coliban Water and the document produced by the Harcourt group.

*David
Gilbe*

The meeting addressed three issues in detail and the following was agreed to:- (note, the submission by Ken Read is attached)

- a. The 2nd schedule of the agreement for water is totally unacceptable. Transferability of water is allowable with all other water authorities/districts in Victoria. In terms of restrictions, it is believed that it is necessary to have flexibility in allowing water to be transferred on a needs basis. The right to transfer entitlement between customers or between properties should be a right of the holder.
- b. The agreement does not give the entitlement holder any long-term assurance of supply notwithstanding the fact that the Coliban Water Authority is currently negotiating for a bulk water entitlement for its rural areas under the present review.
- c. The agreement fails to recognise or offer any compensation for the loss of water entitlement to any person or property nor does it recognise the substantial capital value to both the Coliban and the property owner. Water allocations have a capital value both to the Authority and the land to which it is allocated. It is noted that Coliban has stopped the trading and sale of water permits. It is believed that this has devalued the benefit of the permit to the property and its value, and has further ramifications on property values, the local economy and the assets of the community.
- d. The allocation of water for 12 months only is not considerable to be fair. It is requested that a longer term be negotiated to give some degree of assurance of supply to permit holders.
- e. CWIC firmly believes that the allocation of water to a property is a right, acknowledging that the system has been in place for so long.

These points were unanimously agreed to by members at the meeting.

Harcourt Proposal.

The following amendments or additions were recommended to the Harcourt paper:-

3.2b adopt Harcourt recommendation as per suggestion 1.

Add new condition 5.5

The Authority shall indemnify the customer.

Delete condition 6.2