

WATER FORUM

Gingin

SUMMARY OF PLENARY SESSIONS

30 August 2002



Office of
Water Regulation



Water and Rivers
Commission



Context

The Gingin Water Forum was held on the 30 August 2002.

The purpose of the water forums that have been arranged across the State is to:

- Provide the community with information relevant to the area or region on issues such as; climate change and its impacts, water supply and wastewater management, future demand, and water conservation, re-use and supply options.
- Develop greater community awareness of the current research and other work being undertaken on sustainable use and management of water resources.
- Provide an opportunity for people to identify issues, give feedback and contribute ideas to the Water Symposium to be held at Parliament House in October 2002.

Key Issues Raised by the Community

Throughout the day a number of plenary sessions were held to provide community members with the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions from the various presentations. The issues and questions raised by the community in each session are summarised in the following tables.

Following the plenary sessions, participants were asked to identify the issue of greatest importance to them by placing a dot (vote) on the recorded flipcharts.

This document summarises the issues and questions raised and the voting priority of the people present at the forum.

First Plenary Session

<i>Issue / Questions raised</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1. Will sustainable yield of groundwater fall with declining rainfall?	
2. Issues for water supply for Perth not being presented at Gingin Forum.	
3. Do we know enough about environmental requirements in region?	4
4. Will WRC be investing in research for environmental water requirements?	
5. Concern with impact of aircraft fuels on climate.	
6. How many bores will be sunk in Gingin area for Perth supply?	
7. What recourse is there for growers of taking supply for drinking water.	
8. What effect will increased warming have on region?	
9. Wish that water resources be developed for the region and not exported.	3
10. Can public supply that is set aside be used for private supply in short term?	2
11. How long will it be for the WRC to address issue #10?	
12. How does warming relate to change in sea levels?	
13. Water supply now recognised as global issue.	1
14. Concern that legislative framework in WA is inadequate to deal with issue. (GATS)	3
15. Concern over cost of future water and rights of future generations.	2
16. How much groundwater discharges to ocean?	
17. If we take groundwater, how is aquifer replenished?	1
18. Community needs technical information on groundwater.	
19. Allocation – concern over 1st in first allocation – community concern with WRC approach in sustainably applying allocation process to all.	7
20. Concern with decline in runoff from pines. What is cost to the loss of water – less water?	2
21. When will WRC comply with its mandatory requirement of metering bores? eg 20,000KI	1
22. Water extractions – How is it quantified without flow meters?	
23. Is the calculation of extraction a 'guestimate'?	
24. Clearing of vegetation in catchment areas.	1

25.	Support “Use Wisely” principles. Want “Wise Water” use in Agriculture, Household and Industry.	
26.	Waterwise in agriculture – potential need more information from AGWA	1
27.	Who will own future water – leased? And future generation ownership?	
28.	Page 2 of climate presentation – was this the same as in newspaper?	
29.	Is there correlation between earthquake (Merredin) and water availability?	1
30.	How many artesian bores in Gingin area and who has them?	
31.	Flow meters – alternatives to licensing. Alternatives to licensing water and conferring ownership to private people shouldn’t WRC own all the water and lease it to users on the merits of their proposal in the interest of World’s Best Practice for the Perth Aquifer.	2

Second Plenary Session

	<i>Issue / Questions raised</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Significant allocation of water to Agriculture – what are current market requirements – are they the right allocation?	2
2.	Why aren’t Government Departments talking to each other in allocation process? eg ABS forms don’t meet current situation	7
3.	If water sources need to come on sooner – how will rights of Gingin be met against large Perth community? What will be the process? 2 Million vs 6,000 people.	2
4.	Price and cost of water needs to include cost of monitoring and protection of water resource.	3
5.	2 Satellite Cities – Guilderton and Bindoon – will they be built?	
6.	Re – National competition policies – does Water Corporation have a conflict of interest?	
7.	No enough people at Forum – more issues than being covered at today’s Forum. Who is going to answer local concerns?	2
8.	Need process to answer queries. Gingin people need answers – not more talking.	
9.	No trees: No lawns: More paving: No trees = dysfunctional families.	1
10.	Why take water from this area for other areas? Use given predicted growth in agriculture in this area in the future given there are other alternative sources eg desalination. Issue: Water Allocation Process	8



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11.	Is there a study of correlation of clearing land in area – effects of land clearing on catchments = Water situation now!	
12.	WDEC & DPI need to be consulting with each other.	
13.	Sequence of events for bringing on future supplies. Is 2040 the order? What order is water being allocated?	
14.	30,000 bores – people encouraged to put down bores. Where does environmental branch fit with this initiative?	
15.	Groundwater quality – need to find ways to protect it from diffuse sources of pollution as well as point source.	1

Third Plenary Session

	<i>Issue / Questions raised</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Water trading – rigorous calculations and assessment of impacts – is it meeting stated goals? How do we know its heading in the right direction? The process has been the issue.	10
2.	Build oasis -> people to water. WA Residents Don't have enough water Can't afford rising costs of water Can't understand our water crisis Can't afford to live Can't find employment Don't have future hope vs long term issue for China	2
3.	Already environmental implications eg water logging at points of large water use on light sandy soils.	
4.	Social costs - Example of these How are they going to be included in the State Water Conservation Strategy?	1
5.	Water decisions are about the world we live in. Reactive – crisis – not future, proactive. Strategy – peoples decision What do they want How allocated What impact on them Need to tell people what process!	1

6.	Encourage people to use greywater and rainwater. Would it make a difference? Are there incentives or subsidies?	5
7.	Allocation in Gingin area: Why is 95% allocated to 5 or 6 people?	5
8.	International Biological Program a 10 year consultative study by 40 countries into animal: human: plant: sub-maritime: climate issues	1

