

Submitted on Thursday, November 15, 2018 - 02:32

DETAILS

Company: [REDACTED]
First name: Jim
Last name: Volmer
Address: [REDACTED]
Suburb: [REDACTED]
State: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Sector: Agriculture

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

1 . Would a strategic approach to clearing, through a strategic purpose permit, benefit you?

Response: unsure

Comments:

not applicable to my business

2. Is the 'purpose component' reasonable to apply considering the added complexity of assessing this type of clearing permit?

Response: unsure

Comments:

not applicable to my business

3. Is the proposed fee structure fair and does it adequately reflect differences in the financial capacity of clearing permit applicants?

Response: unsure

Comments:

not applicable to my business

4. What is the likely impact on your business or industry of the proposed clearing fee structure?

Comments:

not applicable to my business

5. Additional comments regarding Native Vegetation Clearing not addressed in the questions above.

Comments:

WATER

*6. Do you consider it reasonable for taxpayers to pay 100 per cent of the cost of assessing water licence

and permit applications and if so, why?*

Response: unsure

Comments:

I do get the user pay system but see that more targeted at big business taking huge resources rather than focusing on the small family business who are already struggling to make a living. Also there are many household bores and hobby farms that take water without having to pay a permit or annual fee.

7. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, what do you consider to be an appropriate fee for a water licence or permit application?

Comments:

A few hundred dollars

8. Would you consider a risk-based model for determining water licence and permit application fees to be appropriate? If not, what basis could the department use to structure fees?

Response: yes

Comments:

There must be a different fee for high risk applications versus low or medium risk applications. There should also be a model based on size of the business and water use.

9. What would be the likely impact on your business or industry if water licence and permit fees were introduced?

Comments:

If the fee would be more than a few hundred dollars and more likely to be a few thousand dollars it would have a very significant impact on our business, which is very small (7.5 acre vineyard). We started our business about five years ago and are still finding it very difficult to make money. There is absolutely no profit to be made on grapes and we are not even covering our costs. A water license of several thousands of dollars would have a severe impact and gets to the point considering it is worth continuing. I am sure there are many small businesses that are in the same position as we are.

10. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, how could the collection of fees be timed to better support your business or industry? For example, would you benefit from paying fees up front, at the end of a licence assessment or annualised over the term of the licence?

Response: annual

Comments

easier to spread the cost rather than a single hit to manage our cash flow

11. Additional comments regarding Water licences and permits not addressed in the questions above.

Comments:

As a self-supply water user for the purpose of growing wine grapes, I am absolutely opposed to the introduction of any cost recovery for self-supply water licenses. The proposed fees are unfair with severe impact on the hundreds of small business owners who underpin the industry.

The introduction of licensing fees does not consider:

- the economic value of the horticultural industry to WA;
- the capacity for growers to pay, given financial margins in horticulture are low and there is no capacity to pass the cost onto the consumer;
- the inequity resulting from the fact that no charges are being considered for unlicensed bores and dams for livestock production, hobby farms and suburban households;
- fee level calculation is not transparent;
- how to more efficiently and effectively manage water resources.