



CANE<sup>GROWERS</sup>



## TINAROO WATER COMMITTEE

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Mareeba QLD 4880

Chairman: Joe Moro: 0418 966 960  
Secretary: Sherri Soncin – [tinaroowater@fnqgrowers.com.au](mailto:tinaroowater@fnqgrowers.com.au)

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12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Mr Shane Knuth MP  
Member for Hill  
[hill@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hill@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Knuth

### WATER LICENCES

I am writing to bring to your attention to a matter of significant concern for the FNQ Growers community in the Tolga area. Recently, there have been notable increases in land valuations because of the continuing rise of costs in their water licences in the market-place as these water licences are tradeable as set out in the Barron Resource Plan: 1 mega litre of water trades between \$3,500 - \$4,000. This is causing distress among landowners due to the inclusion in their valuations.

The FNQ Growers community seeks clarity and potential solutions regarding the exclusion of water licences from future land valuations in the Tolga groundwater area. These licences, essential for agricultural practices, should not be factored into land valuations as they represent a critical resource necessary for sustainable farming operations.

We have had discussions with the Tableland Regional Council regarding this issue and we have their support in looking into options to removing these water licences from future valuations.

An option we are aware of is converting these water licences to a water allocation, but this is a last option for these landholders because of the concern they have with no landholders being able to purchase water allocations versus a water licence which is tradeable in this area from one landholder to another.

Given the importance of this issue to the livelihoods of numerous growers in the region, I kindly request a meeting with you to discuss potential options and strategies to address this matter effectively. Our aim is to ensure fairness and equity in land valuations, safeguarding the interests of FNQ Growers and promoting the continued prosperity of agriculture in the Tolga area.

Your assistance in navigating this issue would be invaluable, and we look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you on finding viable solutions.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience a suitable time for such a meeting. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Yours sincerely

*joe moro*

Joe Moro  
President

CC: Robbie Katter - [traeger@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:traeger@parliament.qld.gov.au)

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