

AN INFORMATION BULLETIN FROM HARVEY WATER

Number 48; December 2004

INDUSTRIAL WATER IN WAROONA

Background:

It has been reported that some irrigators in Waroona are raising concerns about the proposed supply of water to Iluka for the operation of their mines.

These irrigators are suggesting that irrigation water is being provided to the miners, which should not happen when there is a restricted season.

The license for Waroona from the Department of Environment specifically identifies a volume of water which Harvey Water can supply to industrial customers. This industrial water is managed separately from irrigation water.

Industrial customers are a valuable source of sales for Harvey Water which has the effect of lowering the costs for all irrigators because they pay a different price for the water.

They also provide employment and other business opportunities for the region and the Board is happy to support them as part of its vision that we will use our access to water to promote regional development.

The investment in Waroona piping, which was funded by all irrigators including those in Collie who have very poor quality water, has allowed the saving of a over 2000 ML of water in Waroona. This is water which has never reached the farms in the past because it was lost on the way from the dams in the open channels. The sale of industrial water could equally come from these savings and help to repay some of the investment in piping.

Waroona irrigators have the opportunity to trade water at very favourable prices and are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity if they are short of water.

The Iluka mines are an opportunity for all residents of Waroona and irrigators can be assured they are not being disadvantaged by the water going to them.