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Good morning Mayer's, Deputy Mayer's, council CEO's, invited guests and fellow candidates.

It is with the deepest regret that I am unable to attend today's meeting. I have been booked into this contracted job for over 4 weeks now, and the machine isn't available to be down longer than scheduled allotted time.

I have read through the entirety of the links provided and can clearly see that they are aimed at achieving progress in each council's areas.

I don't believe that any politician, regardless of their party, would be against any of the proposed projects.

I would stress however, in relation to the irrigation developments, has it been taken into account that the very chemicals that are used in large scale irrigation, are the very same chemicals that have been responsible in the past for shutting down entire meat and livestock businesses in the past, and also in the present. I would also like to confirm if the amount of money required to set up an irrigation system has been taken into account. Can the average farmer that will benefit from the dams being built be able to afford the development costs to establish? If the land is to be used for flood irrigation, then one would expect a figure of around \$4000/Ha to clear, level and install channels/piping. If overhead sprays were to be used (centre pivot, or lateral move) they currently have a cost of approximately \$1000/M. Both systems also require access to pumps, onsite storage and choice of diesel or electric pumps. This can put the cost of a 500Ha block well above the mum and dad farmer. Yes, this opens up the chances for outside investors, but most are overseas based.

The benefits of irrigation farming though flow onto the towns that support them, from machinery sales and supplies. A 500Ha irrigation farm would easily support 3-4 families, and many more in the establishment phase.

Improved pastures could also be an option, requiring no chemicals, but still the setup cost involved to move the water.

All up though with irrigations setups, the cost per Mgl is the most important. If the cost of water starts to eat into profits, we may have some very big dams constantly full.

I was extremely encouraged to hear an interview with the Cloncurry Mayer regarding the use of treated water for an irrigation project at the local race track. I believe they have a 1Mgl/day output, and to put that into perspective with irrigation, 1Mgl of water equals 100mm of rain per Ha. From my

experience with hay production, grown correctly, that would bail a minimum of 1000 bales per Ha per year. This should be considered, in my opinion, by all councils. Water is just too expensive to evaporate.

I know that I haven't addressed all the matter that are outlined in the attachments, but I do feel that it is unfair for me to consume too much time as I can't attend. Feel free to divide my 8 minutes between the rest of the candidates if you so wish.

Once again, I am sorry for not being able to attend today's gathering, but any of those attending may contact me via the above contact details if they so wish.

Thanking you,

Craig Scriven