

Jackson Smith solicitors

Water reform may put money into the hands of irrigators.

10 main features of the Council of Australian Government agreement of 29 August 2003 on national water reform:

1. there is to be a national, coordinated approach to water management.
2. irrigators are to have perpetual water rights rather than a fixed term nominated volume of water access.
3. there is to be a national trading system.
4. the value of the water is to reflect all market factors – eg planning, supply, environmental requirements.
5. the river systems are to be restored to environmentally sustainable levels.
6. irrigators will lose some entitlements to help with river restoration.
7. \$500 million provision to address problems in the Murray Darling Basin.
8. irrigators to be compensated for loss of entitlement.
9. no agreement on nature of compensation – cash or otherwise – eg improved infrastructure.
10. no commitment to use any part of the \$500 million to pay irrigators compensation.

I hope that this information is of some interest and benefit to you, and to your clients.

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