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Ron Yurevich
Commissioner
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
PO Box 614,
Kununurra WA 6743

Dear Ron,

Ord Land and Water was formed in March of 1998 by the local community as a means to ensure, especially through community participation, sustainable natural resource management in the Ord River Irrigation Area and environs of Kununurra.

Traditional Owners, farmers and non-farmers work together with government and non-government organizations to maximize the use of local knowledge, experience and academic research, to ensure that local natural resource management practices, policy and planning promote a healthy environment, economy and community.

The inaugural Ord Land and Water Management Plan was released in 2000 to guide the local Community in proactive natural resource management of the Ord River Irrigation Area and the Kununurra Township. Over the last two years, the Board of Ord Land and Water and Community members have undertaken a comprehensive review of the original Management Plan.

Since the development of the Ord Land and Water Management Plan (the Plan) in 2000 the wise use of the land and water across the Ord Catchment has become an imperative for the organisation. This was driven at that initial stage by the increasing awareness of the impacts of past uses on surface and ground water quality, the absence of best practices to address those impacts and in particular the scientific knowledge that would underpin those best practices.

Along with that organisational growth and the work undertaken in the decade since the development of the Plan, the focus within the catchment changed from dealing with the unknowns to maintaining the gains that had been made to date. This included ensuring that management

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Along with that organisational growth and the work undertaken in the decade since the development of the Plan, the focus within the catchment changed from dealing with the unknowns to maintaining the gains that had been made to date. This included ensuring that management practises were reviewed and where relevant, updated to suit the future needs of both Industry and the Community.

However, there remains a wide range of land and water management issues to be addressed with some considered to be serious, that will continue to require commitment, knowledge and resources to address them.

Biosecurity for the farming sector in the Ord River Irrigation Area is important to allow market access for product from the area and to reduce costs to producers in the control of pests and diseases.

In 2005 a biosecurity plan was developed for the area and there is a requirement for this plan to be updated so it is relevant for the area. Once the plan is updated there will be a need for the implementation of the plan to improve the biosecurity in the area.

The attached proposal to the Shire is in relation to assistance in updating the current plan and a funding option for the ongoing implementation of the plan.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bloecker', written in a cursive style.

Christian Bloecker

Chair Ord Land and Water