I've been a director with the Dubbo RLPB/CWLHPA for 13 years and Chairman for 8 of those years until I stepped aside for progression of leadership 18 months ago. I am speaking here today as a rate payer of the CWLHPA.

During the past 13 years the DPI has continually passed onto the LHPA various jobs mostly without any funding leaving the rate payers and the good management of the LHPA to absorb those costs. This cannot continue.

Once again, this has led me to look further, into where we could make savings and better manage the Authority for our rate payers.

**Animal Health**

There are many professions that rely on the livestock industries, including our own staff at the LHPA. Bio security is a burden that should be shared by all the community.

Since the formation of the LHPA the senior D.V.s have been constantly supplying data to DPI and do not have time for field work. Therefore the SDV costs should be borne by the community as a whole.

This is not a new concept, D.V.s have always been supplied by DPI in the western division.

We have approximately 7,500 rate payers in the Central West Authority. There have been approximately 800 requests for veterinary advice over the past 12 months. Most of these cases were from rate payers who made several requests. Our senior DV has suggested that about 5% of total rate payers request the services of a vet from the CWLHPA on an annual basis.

Likewise there has been a similar % of rate payers request the services of a ranger. In many cases these are the same rate payers requesting the veterinary services.

The 95% of rate payers not requesting a veterinary service should not have to pay for something they don’t ask for.

These figures are documented using the newly developed LHMS activity report program that the vets record all diagnostic enquiries and visits into. These figures are similar across the state and this information is made available to the DPI who the LHPA vets report to.

At this point I would like to point out that farmers are part of the community and also pay their fair share of taxes.

**Recommendation 1:**
That the SDV be paid for by Government on behalf of the community of which farmers are a part of and the DV's be paid, by those who use their services. This will drive efficiency in the Authorities Animal Health Department.
**TSR’s**

The TSR net work is publicly owned land. The farmers of NSW have nurtured this land for the public for well over 100 years at the farmers cost through the rates they paid to their LHPA’s and predecessors. No one can say it is the farmer who benefits from this land as there is LESS, than 5% of farmers that use the TSR system. If the farmer uses the TSR he pays again for the grass his animal’s graze, not like the rate payers using the vet services that don’t pay when using the DV services.

Like all land owners, if I have a management cost associated to the land then I pay for it.

**Recommendation 2:**
That the cost of the TSR net work be shared by the owners of that land, the community, and those that use the land for grazing or any other activity. This will drive efficiencies with in the LHPA TSR Department.

**Pest Animals**

I believe that Pest Animals is a growing concern for all in the community including farmers.

The burden of this cannot be left to the farmer alone. He puts in his time at below cost over and above any other associated cost of rates.

Remember farmers are part of the community and pay taxes like everyone else.

Everyone in the community requires all the income from overseas market share we can muster to be able to enjoy the standard of living we currently enjoy in Australia. The community needs this market share as much as our farmers need it. We should all contribute as a community to pest animal suppression, eradication where possible; to stop the spread of disease or we all risk losing market share overseas. I don’t want to lower my standard of living and I’m sure the next bloke all over the country doesn’t either.

**Recommendation 3:**
That, the farmer is required to put in his time as a cost to suppress and eradicate where possible pest animals, over and above his community obligation of contributing through the taxation system to the Government along with all other community members.

**Environment**

We all need to contribute to the environment it is not just a farmer obligation. As with pest animals he has the job of manually suppressing and eradicating weeds. As a community we should not ask him to also pay for regulatory costs. This is a community cost.

This leaves us with no requirement to charge any rates to land owners to fund the LLS.

CWLHPA Rate Payer
Don Mudford