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Date of submission: Monday, 9 December 2024

Your submission for this review:

We do not support the proposed increase in water charges. The proposed increase is enough to have a serious impact on water users and their communities, in particular irrigation farmers. What is driving the proposed increase? We are surprised an increase of this magnitude is legal. Why are irrigators being asked to shoulder these extra charges rather than the charges being shared amongst the whole community. Water is a utility just as roads & railways are & benefits the whole population. Irrigation farmers already meet the charges within an irrigation area such as Coleambally Irrigation Area & should sit under a different category to river pumpers. Is there a more sinister motive to the increase in charges in terms of squeezing out irrigation business? Will the Government be held accountable for where the extra income from the proposed charges will be spent? Will there be a rigorous audit process? Irrigators already shoulder a higher portion of fixed charges as we pay regardless of the size of our yearly water allocation. There is no reliability to the allocation announcements but year in year out we pay the fixed charges. Particularly hard hit are family business' like ours. Our business supports multiple family units who in turn have children at local schools, support local sports clubs etc. There has obviously been no socio economic studies done or it would be obvious the flow on effect to local business is massive. Take a reality check Water NSW & WAMC. Business can not absorb price increases of this size without there being a risk that business' will fold. People will leave farming areas. The permanent water market will collapse as a viable form of investment. Corporate entities rely on the trade of temporary water to keep their permanent plantings ticking along but the investors will have left the industry. Irrigation industries have had to absorb significant change from the Government buybacks. Buybacks have hit hard. Maybe the State Government is taking a free hot at the Commonwealth Government as a major water holder. Will there be transparency in Government paying the increased charges? Answers must be provide to the above comments. Due diligence must be done on these proposals rather than just hurling another cost on irrigation business & the community with no thoughts to the consequences.