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Your submission for this review:

I write as the Managing Director of Cochrane Dam Pty Ltd, a hydroelectric generation company which owns Cochrane Dam (located near Bega NSW). We own the dam and are therefore responsible for the safe operation of it. Cochrane Dam is a 2700ML dam which is small. Water releases pass through the power station and are ultimately used by downstream irrigators as well as the environment. I do not support the implementation of a levy on us at all and believe we should be exempt. We incur an annual cost of \$150,000 - \$230,000, associated with meeting our ongoing compliance obligations. We do not "use" the water at all, it merely passes through our power station yet we bare all the costs associated with maintenance and safe operation of the dam. We have no ability to pass on the costs incurred as we are not a water utility and have no agreements in place with downstream users. They make no contribution to the costs incurred by us despite the significant benefit they receive as the ultimate beneficiaries of the water. Likewise for the general public who live downstream. Dams NSW should be funded by the NSW Govt out of consolidated revenue. There is an overall public benefit in ensuring dam safety and the government (via taxes) should fund their own operations. Dam owners are footing more than their fair share in meeting compliance obligations. These obligations consume between 15-20% of our overall expenses when the cost of dam monitoring, (both physical and mechanical) as well as repair and maintenance costs, consultants costs, reports and meetings are added together. It consumes a huge amount of our time (which is to be expected given the importance) but we should not be paying for the watchdog. If dam owners are forced to pay the proposed levy, then arguably a board should be appointed to run Dams NSW- "if you do the paying you should also do the saying". Yours Sincerely Tony Flanery