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Your submission for this review:

Dear sir, I wish to make a submission into the proposed water NSW and WAMC water charge increase. As a manager of a small rural supply business operating in the Coleambally irrigation area I am aware of the negative financial impact these proposed increases will have on the irrigated farming community. The farmers who I supply input to are unable to pass costs onto the buyer of product they produce so an increase in base water pricing is a cost that they will have difficulty in absorbing. Given that an irrigation farm needs water to function my concern is that other farm inputs will be cut in the short term to fund additional charges, which in turn impact on the profitability of the supply business which I manage. A lot of the farmers I deal with struggle to see what they are buying when they pay the government water charges, they can see the service CIICL provide but question the service provided by WaterNSW. Water NSW and WAMC have indicated their costs have increased, but there is no visible change to the service provided. So I think it is reasonable to see what is driving the cost increases and the justification for the step increases. The cost increases are being proposed in line with increased pressure on available water due to pressure on water leaving the irrigation pool from government buy backs. Irrigators are being asked to pay more while government reforms are reducing water access. Increased pricing puts pressure on the viability of farming businesses which in turn impacts on small businesses that support the irrigators. As government corporations, Water NSW and WAMC cannot expect to pass on these unreasonable costs to water users.