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Your submission for this review:

The Wentworth to Broken Hill Pipeline was an initiative of the NSW Coalition Government in 2014. A pipeline that was advocated for by Cotton Australia and its Industry affiliates and was often mentioned in Cotton Australia's Annual reports leading up to the construction. The Cotton Industry had been lobbying the Coalition Government for some time to decouple Broken Hill's water supply from the Darling River/Menindee Lakes. This would allow less flows to be sent down the Darling River and less water to be stored in the Menindee Lakes, allowing more water to be used for irrigation production in the Northern Basin. It was an infrastructure project that wasn't requested by the Far West Communities but pushed forward to favour the Northern Basin Cotton Industry. In the NSW Government Business Case for the Wentworth to Broken Hill Pipeline, it was stated that by taking Broken Hill's reliance for water supply away from the Darling River/Menindee Lakes it would allow for further production in the Cotton Industry in the Northern Basin to the amount of \$120 million dollars annually. At an initial estimated cost of \$500 million dollars for the pipeline and ongoing annual running costs, the question had been asked by many individuals, groups and Councils of who would be responsible for any increases in operating costs because the end user, the ratepayer should not bear any increased costs. I oppose the current recommendation from Essential Water to increase water usage costs by 15% plus inflation for the next 5 years. I propose that a levy be placed on all Water Access Licences in the Northern Basin which will include; Border Rivers, Barwon -Darling River Basin from Bourke to Mungindi, Gwydir River Basin, Namoi River Basin, Macquarie River Basin and any associated tributary within those areas that draw water to grow irrigated cotton, to cover any proposed future price increases for the ongoing operation/maintenance/water supply of the Wentworth to Broken Hill Pipeline. Personal verbal discussions that I had with former NSW Coalition Water Ministers - Humphries and Blair were to the nature that end users of the pipeline (Ratepayers that are service by Essential Water) would not be responsible for any ongoing price increases for the ongoing operation of the pipeline.