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Your submission for this review:

Submission to IPART 2025-2030 Water Price Review We are shocked to see the proposed increase in water costs. This will have a huge impact on our business not only in times when we have higher allocations but will also have a big impact when allocations are lower and the cost of production are really high. We are a family dairy farm in the Murray Irrigation area. All farms and the surrounding communities are reliant of the irrigation industry to produce the high quality food that Australians are accustomed to consuming. Without the farmers in the irrigation areas of Australia importing poorer quality food will become the normal for Australia as the farmers and their surrounding communities close down. At the moment we hear all about the cost of living crisis for consumers, its also the same for businesses. Our costs are going up but the return for our produce is not. This year we took a 13% decrease in our milk price but the costs of producing that milk continue to rise. Now you want to triple the cost of our biggest input, water, by 191%. We are continually being told that inflation rate is only 4 to 5% but our charges are going up by up to 24% imposed on us by the government. This is will drive inflation in to the future. What is the real inflation rate going to be into the future? It appears to us that irrigators are wearing the burden of the cost increases when they are getting to be a smaller part of the water industry. Environmental users are using more than agriculture. Are they contributing to the cost of running the system? It is really difficult to find clear and easy to interpret water use and cost information. Where is this information available for the general public to access? We fully understand that the supply of irrigation water doesnt come for free. There is ongoing infrastructure and maintenance costs that need to be covered to maintain our systems but farmers shouldnt have to wear the majority of the costs. All water that is not used for irrigated agriculture is public water and the public should pay for the management of that water through taxes. Farmers pay for their use of agriculture water and also contribute to the maintenance of the system through their taxes. If we as farmers get priced out of the water market the flow on effects to our communities and towns will be massive. Please help us so we can help look after country, as we all need to work together for the benefit of our communities and environment.