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Your submission for this review:

Thank you IPART for listening to irrigators concerns and questioning Water NSW on their outrageous price rise proposal. It beggars belief that Water NSW can use irrigators money that we pay them, to fund/document such a large, costly and over the top price rise proposal. There is a concern here that you are quoting in the draft determination a price rise PLUS inflation. The idea that inflation can be embedded/enshrined as a base in approving higher prices to be charged by government bodies is really unacceptable. Particularly for farmers dependent largely (in many main commodity areas) on international markets and with no real ability to recoup/pass on, inflation/rising costs. Government bodies like Water NSW ought focus, even be required to focus, on containing their costs (improving productivity, reducing overservicing etc, like in farming) so that their charges actually slow inflation generally. Slowing inflation is a national priority (subscribed to (verbally) by governments and largely left to the RBA to prosecute!) in the interests of relieving cost of living pressures and national prosperity generally.

Government agencies, local government etc need to do their bit as well. I'd like to suggest also that IPART needs to take more account of the lack of water security for holders of general security (GS) entitlements in NSW such as along the Murray River where GS entitlements account for some 90% of irrigation water. In many years our allocations are much less than our entitlements but, we irrigators must pay for all the megalitres on our title. Where else, in what other industry, is this logic applied. If you own a house title you are entitled to use all the rooms. If a house was GS irrigation water, you may be entitled to use only half the rooms in one year and maybe no rooms at all in a year of zero allocation such as in a serious drought. Why must irrigators pay for water they cannot get? I submit that GS irrigators should pay only for water they get - when our GS allocations are less than our entitlements then Water NSW's costs should be met by those categories in proportion to the water they actually get. For example, if town supplies, where there is security of supply, get 100% and GS irrigators get say, 50%, then in that year town supply would fund more of Water NSW's costs and irrigators less. Thank you again for your attention to our irrigation issues. Regards, Richard Ham, [REDACTED]