



10 December 2024

Dear Members

I write to make a submission to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) about the proposed Water NSW and Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) charge increases.

- The proposed charge increases are exorbitant, and I am astounded by WaterNSW and the WAMC's approach. I do not support the proposed increases.
- I am not able to pass on these increases to the buyers of my product (Almonds).
- The proposed charge increases are another hit to my farm business' profitability; the farm sector cannot absorb these impacts.
- The proposed increases will just place more pressure on the competitiveness of my business.

- It is difficult to understand what services customers are paying for. This is particularly true for Coleambally Irrigation customers, with CICL providing many of the services WaterNSW provides to river pumpers.
- I do not understand why I should be paying for the Natural Resources Access Regulator, when I am already paying for CICL's water metering and compliance costs.
- There is no transparency in either the services or their costs for irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Valley. IPART has a vital role to protect water users from these monopolies.
- I cannot work out what I am paying, so I cannot determine efficiencies.
- WaterNSW and WAMC indicate their costs have increased. I have not experienced any change in service, so what is driving these costs increases and what is the justification?
- If CICL took the same approach, members would be extremely dissatisfied and demand change.

- My business is reliant on general security water and access to water in the allocation market. There are fundamental issues with cost sharing between water users and government. We are being asked to pay more while government reforms are reducing our access to water.
- Water users are being asked to pay too high a share of services which benefit the public.
- Government regulation is driving cost increases and reducing the efficiency of the commercial sector. As government corporations, WaterNSW and WAMC cannot expect to pass on these unreasonable costs to water users.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

Olam Food Ingredients (OFI)