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Date of submission: Sunday, 8 December 2024

Your submission for this review:

Toonumbar Water Users Association The Toonumbar Water Users Association (TWUA) operates around NSW's most northerly dam. Toonumbar Dam is an extremely valuable community asset which since its construction in the late 1960s, has played a crucial role in attracting and supporting the development of farming businesses. These businesses play an important role in supporting the local economy. Like all businesses we are feeling the increasing pressure of rapid input cost rises and many of our members are faced with making hard decisions about reducing expenditure on inputs such as water or exiting their business altogether. Neither decision is in the local community's interest. Our particular concerns relate to the following:

1. The 15% increase in WAMC costs is exorbitant. We feel this cost is directly due to over-complicated legacy water regulations that past governments have not streamlined to fit for purpose. The administration costs of these archaic regulations are not helped by the expensive duplication caused by the three-agency management of water policy in NSW.
2. The digitization of water services has been slow and difficult, confused by the over-complicated legacy regulatory process. It has become an unfair cost-shifting exercise to expect water users to pay to digitize the current unfit-for-purpose regulatory framework before its modernization.
3. While we feel while Water NSW's attempt to consult with water users on the pricing system has been its most comprehensive to date, this process was still challenging. The difficulty being for us to access and evaluate other alternative low-cost regulatory compliant options besides ones presented by Water NSW.
4. Any input cost increase is detrimental to existing farming businesses with low to no ability to pass on production cost increases. Access to reliable and affordable water is key to the successful business operation in our area. The increased water usage cost and administrative charges is not going to help attract new businesses to the area. Nor is there likely to be much expansion occurring in the existing businesses under the proposed cost increases for the 2025-30 period.

Wayne Clarke Chairman Toonumbar Water Users Association