



COOMA-MONARO SHIRE COUNCIL

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday • Friday 8.35AM • 5.00PM

All correspondence to be addressed to the General Manager

ABN 40 548 783 283

Enquiries: David Byrne (DB:MT)
Our Ref: ES/WAS/01
Your Ref:

22 May 2001

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Sir

RE: PROPOSED DLWC BULK WATER PRICING

Council at its meeting on 14 May considered a detailed report in relation to the DLWC Bulk Water Pricing submission. In response to that report Council resolved as follows:

That Council is responsible for providing both water management community service obligations and water to rural communities and recommends:

1. That IPART recognise that Local Government and Local Government Water Supply Authorities play a significant role in catchment and river resource management, by providing resources to Catchment and River Management Committees, Noxious Weed / Vegetation and Land Management Committees and Boards and undertake water, soil, development and waste testing monitoring and regulation.
2. That IPART recognise this significant financial contribution made by Local Government in providing resources to help manage the river catchments, and that this cost is borne by Local Government. Local Government has not to date looked at retrieving these costs from the State Government, and does not believe that the State Government should be allowed to recover its costs from Local Government.
3. That Water Catchment Boards will be seeking Local Government to take a lead role in providing resources, to implement the outcomes of their investigations, from within current Local Government resources as rate capping is applied by the State Government.
4. That Local Government Water Authorities are NOT commercial undertakings and are already providing significant financial resources to river management on a community service obligation.

5. That based on the substantial contributions being made by Local Government, then DLWC and IPART should be incorporating these costs into their calculations.
6. That IPART take into considerations:
 - i That IPART does not increase bulk water charges until an appropriate substantiation is provided by DLWC to the Councils and local Communities that are purported to be the beneficiaries.
 - ii That the period called for public submissions has not been adequate enough to allow Councils and local communities to be consulted and should therefore be extended.
 - iii That the proposed increases are significantly above the Consumer Price Indices and this is inappropriate for Councils to be asked to sustain such increase in light of the current rate capping policies that the State Government imposes on Local Government.
 - iv That there is a huge disbenefit to the local communities because no account is taken of the enormous value of the infrastructure in place and the relatively small population that these cost can be apportioned across, and the huge benefit others receive.

I would appreciate advice that you have received this request and your considerations.

Yours sincerely



NEIL WATT
GENERAL MANAGER