



"HILLVIEW"  
Dungowan. 2340.  
9th. MAY. 2001.

INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL.  
P.O. Box Q290  
QVB Post Office.  
NSW. 1230.

RE. BULK WATER CHARGES.

I RECENTLY ATTENDED A MEETING OF PEEK VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION AND WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND WATER ARE ASKING FOR A 20% INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS.

THESE CHARGES ARE EXCESSIVE AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED, AS WE ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM A MAJOR FLOOD IN NOVEMBER 2000. WE NO LONGER HAVE THE CAPACITY TO KEEP INCREASING OUR INCOME TO COVER THESE COSTS. WE ARE PRESENTLY BEING CHARGED FOR 100% ENTITLEMENT OF OUR LICENCE, YET WE WILL ONLY EVER BE ALLOWED TO USE 80% OF IT, SO IN EFFECT WE ARE NOW PAYING FOR 20% OF WATER WHICH WE CANNOT USE.

MANY TRIGATORS WILL BE FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS HAVING A GREAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY AND TAMWORTH CITY.

A RECENT STUDY OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH LUCERNE HAY PRODUCTION WAS CONDUCTED BY A UNIVERSITY GRADUATE USING FIGURES OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WERE SO OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY.

THE COSTS OF MAKING A BALE OF LUCERNE HAY IS \$3 TO \$3.50.

COSTS BEING. —

WATER, ELECTRICITY, FUEL, MACHINERY, REPAIRS, ESTABLISHING NEW PADDOCKS, SPRAYS, DEPRECIATION ON PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

THE AVERAGE SALE PRICE OF A BALE OF HAY IS \$5.

MANY DIFFERENT GRADES ARE MADE DURING THE SEASON, DEPENDING ON SEASONAL CONDITIONS.

IT WAS REVEALED AT THE MEETING DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND WATER PROPOSE TO ENLARGE THE SPILLWAY OF CHAFFEY DAM, THIS IS ANOTHER COST WHICH IS NOT NEEDED, AS IT CAN NOW DISCHARGE MORE WATER THAN IS ALREADY NEEDED.

THE PEEL RIVER IS CHOKED WITH TREES AND UNDERGROTH, AND THIS MONEY WOULD BE BETTER USED TO FIX THESE PROBLEMS.

WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WHO CONDUCT SURVEYS CONCERNING LOCAL MATTERS SUCH AS HAY PRODUCTION RIVER CARE. ALIGNMENT WORK AND WATER MANAGEMENT DO NOT COME AND TALK TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND GET A MORE BALANCED VIEW. THESE PEOPLE ARE THE BEST SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR AREA.

YOURS FAITHFULLY.

A. B. & G. JARRETT.

per. B. Jarrett.