

IPART review of prices for WaterNSW

Water issues paper submission – Bega RSL Club Limited

Bega Country Club is an eighteen hole golf course in the far south coast town of Bega. The club is financially controlled by Bega RSL Club Limited (Club Bega) and has been for many years.

The club is also home to various other sports with four squash courts, archery, darts, snooker and indoor bowls all played competitively. As with many small regional NSW towns, facilities such as ours is a vital meeting place for sport persons and social interaction, especially for the aging population.

Due to its positioning, the club is totally reliant on rain fall and water drawn from the Brogo River System with a high security licence to irrigate the course. During drought periods, the club is totally dependent on water from the river system impacting on the clubs financial situation which can be best described as strained.

Most courses in the shire are assisted in their irrigation from local treatment works reducing their dependency on costly alternatives. Bega Shire Council is about to conduct a feasibility study into storing and using treated effluent on the course but even though it may report positively, the Council made no firm commitments to proceed with the project.

While we understand costs in all businesses increase annually, however, such increases as outlined in the Review of prices for WaterNSW 2016 would put a significant burden on the clubs finances, especially during periods of dry / drought conditions.

The club is also concerned that such price increases would push more dairy farmers to opt for dry farming techniques rather than pay the increased water charges. This would serve to reduce the share factor in the pricing equation, further increasing the burden on the Country Club.

We support the Bega valley Water user's recommendation that the price of water be capped at the 2010 IPART Determination level at least until a detailed feasibility study be conducted into management and pricing options for the Brogo System.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to make this submission relating to the price of water to irrigate the Bega Country Club golf course.

David Mitchell

General Manager