

Author name: F. Hughes

Date of submission: Wednesday, 24 April 2019

Submission: Dear Sir/Madam 24th April 2019

I am in receipt of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART's) Review of the Essential Energy's proposed price increases for the cost of water being supplied to our property Kars Station by the Broken Hill/Menindee pipeline.

I wish to object strongly to this approximately 100% increase from the previous price for a number of reasons...

Firstly, we are in the middle of the worst drought since the 1940's drought, and so obviously our financial situation and cash flow is at an all-time low.

My wife and I have been long term reliable customers of the facilitators of the Pipeline (now called Essential Energy) from the early establishment of the pipeline, and feel distressed and very let down by this price rise proposal.

Over the years we have used the pipeline water to supply our shearing teams which provided employment for many men and women.

At times we have watered up to 5000 sheep and 200 cattle on the pipeline, and this is our livelihood which has had a flow on effect of supporting many businesses in Broken Hill where we have spent tens of thousands of dollars over the years.

An additional benefit of the pipeline water has been to supply the native fauna, kangaroos, emus and numerous bird species on Kars Station and the effect of this has been positive for the general community and encourages tourism in the district. With the proposed price increase this situation may not continue.

We hope that you will take our objections in to consideration before going ahead with this proposed exorbitant price rise.

Yours faithfully

John and Annie Hughes

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.