

Kevin Anderson MP

MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH ELECTORATE



Price Review for WaterNSW (Rural)
Independent Pricing and Review Tribunal
PO Box K35
HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am making a submission on behalf of a number of constituents in my electorate who are bulk water users in the Peel Valley.

Peel Valley water users pay the highest price for water in NSW and are victims of the current system. In my electorate of Tamworth, the agricultural industry is led by Lucerne hay production and dairy farming. These industries are dependent on irrigation.

The exorbitant water charges in the Peel Valley are causing profit margins to increasingly be diminished, forcing Lucerne and dairy irrigators to be squeezed out of production. This places enormous pressure on those reliant on the products such as Lucerne hay for Tamworth's renown equine industry, as well as the equine sector who visit for competitions. These industries will be paying much more for a product as they will need to source the produce from well outside the region.

Comparing Peel Valley water charges to other valleys, Peel Valley charges are clearly disproportionate. The Peel Valley Water Users Association has campaigned vigorously for fairer water pricing and all I am asking for is a fair go and some kind of evenness across the state.

It is most unreasonable to force Peel Valley water users to pay 100% of the user share of costs when they can only access 5% of the average annual end of stream flow. This means that 95% of the water in the Peel River flows downstream into the Namoi valley system in any year. How is this equitable?

The total user share of the costs in the Peel Valley are no higher than in other valleys, so therefore the water charges in the Peel Valley should not be higher than in other valleys.

How can the Peel Valley, which has the smallest percentage of General Security water usage across the state, with the lowest reliability, be charged the highest amount per megalitre? How is this equitable?

Building a Better Region

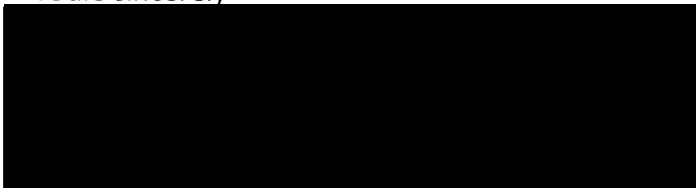


I would like to make a brief comment about the Environment Contingency Allowance which consists of 5000 ML out of Chaffey Dam annually. While it is in the Peel system, it is *environmental water* but as soon as it reaches the Namoi system it is no longer treated in this vain and is part of the mix for Namoi irrigators. How is this equitable?

The current rate at which the Peel Valley Water users are being charged is totally unsustainable and if it continues will have an economic, social, and environmental impact on irrigators, with a flow on effect to the community.

The future growth of our city and the future of farming in our region depend on the water price pressure easing. The recommendations from IPART will determine the future of many of these water users and I respectfully ask for more equitable charges for water users in the Peel Valley.

Yours sincerely

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Kevin Anderson MP
Member for Tamworth

29.9.2016