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Submission: As licence holders of three water licences in the high country or more particularly the Orange area being fruit producers and because the industry is currently going through a very difficult time with very low prices and increasing costs in all directions, any increase in the cost of our water especially in view of recent increases in that licence far more than inflation would be difficult to accept.

We have considered trying to park our licence in two situations as we no longer require the amount of water that our licence permits but this we have been told is not possible so we are currently paying for water that we don't use and do not want to hand the licence in as it has obvious value especially if we decide or have to sell.

The current price of water although already too high for what we use would be out of our reach if either the fixed charges were increased or we had to install water meters which are very expensive and would have little use as once our storages are full then all the rest of the catchment goes down the water course anyway.

Enough is enough we obtained the licences and built the storages all in good faith and now it seems that you want to price us out of being able to hold on to them, I often wonder just where this country is heading especially with regard its attitude towards farmers and farming.