

Submissionn to the IPART review for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation NSW Office of Water from 1st July 2016

From the Richmond and Wilson Combined Water Uses Association (RWCWUA)

Richmond and Wilson Combined Water Users Association (RWCWUA) is a group of volunteers who represent all water users, agricultural, industrial, stock and domestic, riparian rights, regulated, unregulated and groundwater on the Richmond and Wilson rivers on the Far North Coast of NSW.

Key Issues are:

All unregulated users in our area have no meters and have had no access to two part tariff because of that. We wish to see a method of getting access to a 2 part tariff without the high cost of installing existing approved meters. Licences here are rarely fully used due to it being a high rainfall area. We are encouraged by the Office of Water investigating a surrogate method of measuring water take however this doesn't seem to yet be fully developed and doesn't seem to be accessible at this time.

Currently if we could access the 2 part tariff the ratio would be 70 fixed:30 usage. our members believe that this ratio should be reversed to encourage users to measure their usage.

The components of the formula used to set our charges appear to be non transparent and arbitrarily set. E.G. River gauging stations. Users currently contribute 70% of their costs and this may be accurate across the State but in our area they are mainly used to monitor highflow events-floods. This is for the benefit of the whole community rather than those with irrigation licences.

The overall charge for North Coast is approximately twice that of the Hunter Valley. As the North Coast "Valley" is already an amalgamation of quite a number of rivers it is the recommendation of our members that we be amalgamated with the Hunter for the purpose of pricing on the condition that the Hunter water users suffer no price detriment due to such amalgamation. This is in line with the consolidation mentioned in the IPART Fact Sheet.

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