

IPART, PO box Q290 Sydney.
SUBMISSION ON WATER PRICING.

I wish to make the following comments on IPART's draft determination.

I am an irrigator on an unregulated stream – Cordwells Creek – at Coffs Harbour.

1. IPART have elected not to charge stock and domestic users for water until at least 2014. Yet they are by far the biggest users of water in the short coastal streams in the Coffs harbour region, and I would suggest that would be the same in other regions as well. I can only deduce that IPART hit the easiest target – the farmers- and not the wealthy rural residential landholders because the SAD users would make a lot of noise.

There are at least 60 SAD users on the short (3.5km) Cordwells Creek catchment, but only 7 licensed irrigators. The continuing demise of farming in the catchment suggests that only about 3 irrigators actually irrigate.

Yet you don't hit the SAD users. That's gutless and weak, and reflects poorly on the so called independence of IPART.

2. You suggest that around 51% of users will have a water bill of less than \$95 a year. That is crap. I have not irrigated this year at all due to the wet conditions. My basic Bill is over \$400.
3. I note that you are "considering users and making relevant adjustments". Who are You considering and when? The returns from irrigation are so low it isn't worth the bother. All you are doing is keeping useless "shiny bums" occupied in NOW.
4. In your "Considering impacts on users" you have allowed NOW to increase Charges by 20% a year. Inflation is about 4%. What is the rationale behind that? The work in assessing streams has already been done. Its finished, so tell NOW to get rid of the staff that were employed to do it. There is now no work for them. Then our costs can go down by 20% a year.

Ted Knoblock.