

Dear Sir

I object to the current level of taxing farmers for essential water necessary for food production, let alone the doubling of those rates, as I have been told is the case under your new determination for water on free flowing UNREGULATED coastal rivers.

There is absolutely NO JUSTIFICATION for charging producers of food for water taken from an unregulated river to fund a government department.

It is merely a pretence to tax farmers.

On any account whatever monitoring of available water from an unregulated river is carried out, is purely for community benefit and to tell farmers when there is insufficient water to pump - purely a community benefit.

Our irrigation licence on the Barrington River permits us to do just that - pump when there is plenty of water flowing down the system and out to sea, and to stop pumping when there is insufficient water for irrigation.

There is NOTHING that the government or we farmers can do about it. The water is provided by our Creator when it snows on the Tops and when it rains.

Please remove these absurd charges altogether and leave the funding of the relevant government departments to the taxes which all of we citizens of this great land pay for the purpose.

If you do persist with this tax on farming, then it must be justified by itemising the cost build up and sending it with the next round of price hikes which you have determined.

I am sure that would show clearly that the amounts charged are purely a community benefit and inapplicable to farmers who are using the water to produce food only when it is available. Again, the water costs the government or you at IPART ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and I would appreciate a reply to the view expressed.

Thank you
Newman Patmore