

# Hunter Valley Water Users Association

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## Re view of prices for Water Administration Ministerial Corporation.

The Hunter Valley Water Users Association represents the water users of the regulated sections of the Hunter Valley as well as co-operating with water user's associations on unregulated streams and ground water systems throughout the Hunter Valley  
The Association is also a full member of NSW Irrigators Council and strongly represented on the State Water Coastal Valleys CSC.

In preparing this submission HVWUA has studied the IPART Issues Paper, NOW initial and supplementary submissions as well as the PCW/HALBROW review of those submissions.

We have also been closely involved in the preparation of the Coastal Valley CSC submission and the NSW Irrigators Council's submission on this review and fully endorse the various comments made in those two submissions.

The Hunter Valley Irrigation industry ranges from fairly small lifestyle type farms to large users including some of the larger horse studs, dairying, vineyards, horticultural and cropping enterprises.

Water is obtained from regulated and unregulated rivers as well as some reasonably large alluvial groundwater aquifers. There are at least two Private Irrigation Districts in the area. Nearly all of the irrigation is based on pressurized systems ranging from hand shift pipes through various types of travelling irrigators and centre pivots with some drip irrigation particularly in the vineyards.

All of these systems rely heavily on Electric power to

Water is also supplied to a number of urban and industrial users, including some of the states largest coal mines, 3 local government areas, 3 power stations.

It is not my intention to again detail the issues already canvassed in the CVCSC submission but merely to emphasise

- The difficulties and lack of detail in the various supplementary submissions made by NoW.
- The fact that the major excuse for additional FTE is the new national water act and MDB issues yet these issues do not apply to the Hunter.
- Query that costs of urban and industrial development scrutiny be not charged to irrigators but born by proponents
- Hydrometric network should only be charged for once.
- Government departments such as NoW should not expect a return on Assets for core business

- The government should accept more of their core business costs, including policy development, when only comparatively low %age of available water is used for identifiable consumptive use.
- Transaction fees should be set so as to cover costs of an efficient system and where possible should be contestable.
- Additional metering is necessary but should be applied in a practical way. It is crazy that the cost of metering is often more than the value of the water metered.
- The proposed price increases must be looked at in conjunction with other proposed increases in State Water and Electricity charges when considering the impact of cumulative effects on farming operations.
- NoW should be required to provide for a formal consultation process with stakeholders in order to ensure better decision making outcomes

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this review and trust our input is of assistance. Should you require further detail or discussion we would be happy to assist.

Yours Sincerely  
Arthur Burns  
President  
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