

UPPER DUNGOWAN CREEK

WATER USERS GROUP

Review of Bulk Water Charges for State Water Corporation
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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To Whom It May Concern

This submission is submitted on behalf of the majority of irrigators of the upper reaches of the Dungowan Creek.

- IPPART's proposed increase in entitlement charges which we believe is between 300 and 400% over 4 years is outrageous and unconscionable.
- Unregulated streams do not have costly infrastructure to build or maintain therefore ongoing costs are minimal.
- If irrigators are to be responsible for cost recovery they should then have some say in the staffing levels and remuneration of the bureaucracy.
- To achieve full cost recovery (or tax) on a commodity which may or may not be available is not fair.
- If price increases force some water users to sell all or part of their licences then a smaller number of users will be responsible for a greater proportion of running costs for a commodity that may or may not be available.
- Why does water have to be full cost recovery?

In Support of this submission:

IPART's charter, we understand is to protect consumers from excessive prices levied by government monopolies. If these price increases are enacted we put to IPART they have failed its duty of care.

Water allocations from unregulated streams is dependent on rainfall not costly infrastructure. Other than gauging stations there is minimal government cost.

If the government wants full cost then the major stakeholders (irrigators) should have some say on staffing levels and remuneration of the department staff.

We accept we cannot be guaranteed a steady supply of water however we are unable to afford the level of increases being proposed. There just is no income to support this.

IPART must consider the social and economic impact of the decisions which impact on irrigators and their families as well as associated businesses and towns. Years of poor production coupled with ever increasing input costs and astronomical increases in government charges realise negative to very small profit levels in most irrigation gross margins.

Many government charges are well in excess of the CPI.

Food security at a reasonable price to consumers and producers is facing an onslaught from ill advised government cost recovery.

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