

05 July 2006

Draft Determination for Bulk Water Prices
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office
Sydney NSW 1230



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Response to IPART's draft bulk water price determination

The Irrigators' Council, on behalf of its Members (of which the Association is one), recently forwarded to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal its submission regarding the Draft Determination for Bulk Water Prices. While the Association supports the majority of the submission, the policy of the Association differs in relation to charges and metering for stock and domestic water.

The Association always has, and will continue to oppose, the introduction of such charges and metering.

With regard to bulk water prices, the increases proposed for the Peel, North Coast, Hunter and South Coast will have severe adverse impacts on farmers, compounded by the effects of drought, low water allocations and severely depressed commodity prices.

The Association can see no legitimate basis for increasing prices in these circumstances, particularly when so many aspects of the National Water Initiative (NWI) have yet to be delivered. The NWI is an integrated package and it is not reasonable to impose full cost recovery on farmers when other elements such as indefeasibility of title for all licence holders, a fully functioning water market and macro water sharing plans are still far from being delivered.

Accordingly, please note that the Association opposes progression to full cost recover prior to the full delivery of all other aspects of the NWI.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Laurie".

Jock Laurie
President

Copy sent to:

Doug Miell, CEO NSW Irrigators' Council