

Email

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To: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Subject: IPART May 2005 – Pricing

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc

ABN 49 075 380 648

Chairman: Ian Cush

458 Frome St,

PO Box 1451,

Moree, NSW, 2400

Executive Officer: Michael Murray

Ph 02 67521399

Fax 02 67521499

Mobile 0427 521399

gvia@bigpond.com

The Chairman,

Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal,

PO Box Q290,

QVB Post Office,

NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the invitation to attend the public hearing for the Bulk Water Pricing Determination, this Friday, May 20.

The Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association will be represented at that meeting by its Chairman Ian Cush, who is also a director of the NSW Irrigators' Council.

While the Association will be represented, it would also like to take this opportunity to also make a number of points in writing:

- 1) Under the circumstances the GVIA supports IPART's decision to set a 1-year price path, with the process to determine a medium term path to occur over the next 12 months. However, the Association is very concerned that this decision was in effect forced upon IPART by DIPNR's complete refusal to provide a detailed submission in a timely manner. The GVIA is very concerned that such inaction by DIPNR in effect impinges on the perceived independence of IPART.
- 2) The GVIA seeks some assurances from IPART that it holds the necessary powers to direct a Government Department like DIPNR to provide information to IPART in a timely and professional manner.
- 3) The GVIA strongly argues that there can be no justification in IPART increasing DIPNR's water resource management charges in any way for the current determination. Any increase could only be seen as a reward for ignoring IPART's directions.

- 4) GVIA would be very concerned about any increase being awarded to State Water, until the concerns raised in the GVIA's and other submissions had been examined thoroughly.
- 5) The GVIA hopes IPART will use the content of the numerous submissions it received during the current determination process when developing the discussion paper for the medium term price determination, and that both State Water and DIPNR will be compelled to answer the many questions raised in the submissions.

The GVIA will be raising its concerns about DIPNR's response to the current price determination with the NSW Premier.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Murray
Executive Officer,
GVIA