

11th November 2005

The Chairman
IPART
Bulk Water Review
PO Box Q290
Queen Victoria Post Office NSW 1230



Dear Sir,

I represent members of the Bega RSL and Bega Country Clubs and am writing this letter to you in regards to the proposed increase to prices for water usage from the Brogo River.

Said issue was brought to my attention at a meeting held last week between local people and farmers who have found out about the rather "hush hush" tactics employed by the Government to increase the price for water permits as well as usage without actually informing the people concerned. It is yet another example how the ones that govern us actually treat the community, even though they are supposed to represent this very same community.

To impose an increase of up to 800% (plus) is in itself outrageous to say the least! How is anybody supposed to make a living? Let alone a decent one? I guess it is of no great concern when the ones making these decisions have no care for water unless nothing is coming out of their penthouse taps.

This Government has already made a good job of crippling a club industry which was built entirely through the efforts of their very own working class supporters and many of us had no other option but to close doors for good. Gaming taxes imposed are at ridiculous levels and nobody is prepared to make any move or seems to care apart from the current state opposition who can foresee what will happen if nothing is being done.

Our aim, our very being as a club has always been to support and put back into our very own community. The Bega Country Club is only just surviving as it is now. To impose an extra \$10K or more onto our annual expenses plus the further increase for actual water usage is like giving us the death sentence.

We were already force to reduce the sponsorships to the various local charities and individuals in need – youth sporting bodies and the elderly in most cases. This proposed increase will just about bring the lot to a complete stand still.

But then again – what do you or the Government care, when all this happens elsewhere, as long as it doesn't have any effect on yourself, it doesn't seem to matter much, does it? It has been widely broadcast that the Eastern suburbs of Sydney are the ones with the highest water usage by far. "Wastage" it is really, not usage with most of the water being used to water gardens, top up swimming pools and washing the ever so precious luxury car.

Never mind the farmer or a community facility such as our golf course. Let them sort it out and if they can't survive, well then they weren't good enough anyway – that is the message as it sounds from our end of the woods.

I sincerely hope that the public at large will get together to speak and protest against your proposed increase to the usage of water! Further, that the media will pick up and show what will happen should your proposal go ahead and be introduced.

But then again... that is another issue which is not all that "close to home" for where you are; so why care about it?

Well we DO care – that is why I wrote this letter!

Walter Sauer
General Manager

Cc: Andrew Constance MP
Gary Nairn MP
Bega District News