

Friday 18th November 2005

Mr Jim Cox
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Level 2, 44 Market St
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Fax: 02 9290 2061
Email: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Re: Macquarie Valley Water Price Increases

Dear Mr Cox,

I am writing to you as a riparian water user in the Macquarie Valley with a base allocation of 1296 megalitres

I write to emphasise some of the issues raised by the peak body, Macquarie River Food & Fibre:

As the whole irrigation industry uses only 26% of the flows in the Macquarie, it is unrealistic to expect them to pay 100% of the 'user share' of costs. Irrigation schemes are charged for all the water delivered, including losses, other users such as environmental and stock and domestic water users of the same infrastructure pay nothing for their use. Recent changes have seen our priority access status reduced with the recent Water Sharing Plan and Act in favour of other users.

We have 1 seat on the Macquarie Customer Service Committee the same as other users yet we are the only user that has to pay. This is against the principles of cost sharing in the 1994 CoAG Agreement.

If government requires a return on infrastructure investments it should also be raising public transport fares to reflect this policy.

Government need to demonstrate public service efficiencies that are equal to private and company businesses before considering recouping their complete costs, Many of their decisions are made for political not business reasons.

IPART needs to seriously consider these issues along with those raised by MRFF and NSWIC.

I request an opportunity for a public hearing in Dubbo to further discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Col Dowling