

EK, K & RE Platts

18th November 2005

The Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
Bulk Water Review
PO Box Q 290
Queen Victoria Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

We are dryland dairy farmers in the Dry River Catchment of the Bega Valley Shire. We are very concerned about the proposed increase in irrigation charges to our fellow dairy farmers on the Brogo River.

These producers supply most of the milk into the Bega Co-operative Society whom we rely on for a good milk price. If they become non-viable because of 800% irrigation water increases then the entire viability of the Bega cheese industry is threatened. And THIS will directly affect us. We hope we are at the end of a very difficult 3 year drought and we are going to require 4 - 5 years of average seasons to reclaim our lost ground financially. We are also still suffering from the effects of deregulation.

All other dairy farmers are in a similar situation. This increase would be the final straw for many farmers.

We urge you to stop these proposed increases. They are grossly unfair and not necessary.

Yours truly,

Ellwyn and Kathleen Platts