

9th November 2005

The Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Bulk water review

The Proposed increases to water from the Brogo river for the purposes of irrigation will have a dramatic effect on whether we will continue to use this resource and hence be able to continue to dairy farm.

Dairy farming at present is only just viable and with an added price hike of this magnitude it will be questionable whether to continue, thus affecting jobs and milk production in the Bega Valley. This may have a flow on affect to Bega Cheese Co-op, as the impact of a number of its larger suppliers pulling out would certainly create problems for the Co-operative.

By anyone's measure the proposed increase of 800% is huge and this on an industry struggling to come out of a severe drought and still trying to come to grips with deregulation and the unfair playing field this has created, is beyond belief.

Yours sincerely

Frank Irving