

November 14, 2005

The Chairman
Independent Pricing Regulatory Tribunal
Bulk Water review
P.O Box Q 290
Queen Victoria P.O
NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

Submission regarding proposed increases for water supplied from the
Brogo River System :

We have owned our property of onehundred and thirtysix hectares for five years. It is used for raising beef cattle and also has a small orchard.

Having recently learned of your plans to increase water charges we have become quite concerned. The way we understand your table of proposed charges, we will be looking at a 900% increase by the year 2009 if we use our full allocation. Is this correct?

We have a fifty megalitres license and use only a small proportion of our allocation but require it as a backup in case it should ever be needed.

We would like to point out that this kind of increase also devaluates our property. When you buy a property on a river it's a safe-guard against drought, the purchaser pays extra for the privilege of having access to that little bit of river. If a farmer can not afford to keep his irrigation license because some bureaucrats have decided to increase the cost of water out of the reach of everyone what is the good to anyone including yourselves.

It seems to be a very greedy increase. We don't mind paying for the privilege of being able to irrigate but it must be fair, this is not. By the way we all know that water should be treated like gold and people on the land know this better than anyone. We also know that the dam has to be maintained.

If these increases go ahead some (a lot are family run farms) will have to give up their farming careers, what a tragedy and a waste as these people have been on the land for generations and are a great asset to the country.

Could you please let me know how you arrived at these increases as it seems to be very irregular across all the river systems. I would like to say most people don't mind an increase but a fair one please. Not one that's going to put people out of business.

Yours faithfully

Graham & Judith F Hodkinson