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MURRAY VALLEY GROUNDWATER USERS ASSOCIATION
2005 IPART SUBMISSION.

13th November 2005
Review of Bulk Water Pricing 2005/2010
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Level 2
44 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

REVIEW OF 2005 - 2010 BULK WATER PRICES.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Review of Bulk Water Prices. Murray Valley Groundwater Users Association represents the Groundwater Users within GWMA 016, the Murray Region.

We would be pleased to attend a hearing to discuss our submission and any issues relating to our submission.

The price increases DNR is proposing for the management of Groundwater in Murray are to say the least, excessive. All the information that can be gleaned from the DNR submission is that they require an additional 50 Staff Members across the State, and \$1,375,000 to manage groundwater in Murray. The tables in the appendix tell us the roles DNR perform with the Groundwater, but other than that, there is nothing. There are no costs assigned to these roles. There is no indication at all as to where this money will be spent. How the money will be spent and what this additional 50 Staff will do is also information that remains a secret.

I have worked out what these figures will mean to the individual pumper.

DNR want \$1,375,000 for this region. As of July 1st 2006 there will be 83,700ML of entitlements. Dividing the amount by the entitlement gives you \$16.43 per megalitre. Last year, depending upon how much usage you had, we paid between \$1.80 and \$1.90. This is a massive increase and totally unjustified.

Our region has 192 licensed bores. Dividing the \$1,375,000 by 192 gives you \$7,161 per bore.

These increases are totally unjustified. Nowhere in the submission is there any explanation as to why these massive increases are required. Nothing is defined as to what the additional staff will do. It is our feeling that the staff would not be required with those funds. DNR could buy all bores a Real Time meter and then they would only have to interpret the data as it is fed into the DNR office. We believe that they would still have money left over after completing the above.

It is our recommendation that Groundwater charges for Murray remain the same until further explanations are given and justification made.

Leigh Chappell
Executive Officer.