

"Rosevale"
Buckajo
VIA BEGA NSW 2550
18 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

RE: INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES

I am an irrigator on the Bemboka River and I wish to object to the increase in water charges.

I have just been through three years of drought and finished up with more debt than I started with and nothing else to show for three years of hard work.

Last year I considered closing the farm down, as drought and all the other costs of running the farm was starting to beat me.

We get most of our water by paying money to the owners of Cochrane Dam to store water for us. Without that we would have no reliable supply of irrigation water.

These charges on top of previous increases are not reasonable and cannot be justified.

It is this sort of uncontrolled cost increases that is making it too hard financially for me to continue in business. If I am forced to close the dairy down my wife and I and two employees will be out of a job.

While I am sure you don't really care about this it is time that the government had a good hard look at the destruction to peoples lives that these "full cost recovery" policies have.

The result is going to be no one to pay the water charges because you have forced us all to close our dairies and the only thing achieved is no industry and no jobs. This is a real lose lose outcome.

It would just be good for once to see the people that put up these ridiculous proposals take a good hard look at the consequences of what they are putting up.

Yours faithfully

Neil Hukins