

The Chairman  
Independent Pricing Regulatory Tribunal  
Bulk Water Review  
Dear Sir

I am writing to you to voice my concern regarding the proposed water price increases to Brogo river irrigators. We have dairy farmed at Corridgeree for the past eighty two years, being the third generation of our family to dairy on this farm.

During the past number of years we have had some severe droughts to contend with and other years much dryer than usual. We have relied heavily on our irrigation to get us through those hard times. If the proposed increases go ahead we will have to restructure our business to survive in the dairy industry. This may mean cutting back on staff or not irrigating and become dry land farmers. During my time in the dairy industry I have seen many dry land farmers cease to operate and leave the dairy industry.

Our concern is the size of the increase in water charges. Over the past few years there have been small increases, which could be budgeted for but if the proposed water price increases went ahead I do not think we could remain a viable dairy farm. At the current price it takes approximately 1.5% to 1.8% of our income from dairying for water allocation and water used. If the proposed pricing goes ahead this could rise to between 9.00% to 13.00% of our income. When we allow for electricity, diesel and labour costs it could require up to 20.00% of our income for irrigation alone. Over the past twenty five years I have been working at Corridgeree we have survived droughts and floods and a continuance battle against noxious weeds and ferrel pests, but I find this proposal if it was to go ahead may make this farm unviable.

Also could you tell me if half of the irrigators on the Brogo river were to surrender their water licences and allocation would the cost to the remaining irrigators again double.

Hoping common sense will prevail.

Ray Ubrihien.