

Mr Jim Cox
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Level 2, 44 Market St.
Sydney. NSW. 2000

Dear Mr Cox,

We are writing on behalf of T.E & P.M Quigley. We are water users in the Maquarie Valley belonging to the Trangie Nevertire Irrigation Scheme with 1770mg entitlement.

We write to emphasise some issues in addition to those raised by our peak body, Maquarie River Food and Fibre .

1. General Security Water entitlements get last use of water in the dam. Before us are domestic and town use, flood mitigation, high security and environmental flows, yet it is being suggested that we pay the full cost of running the river. There is no fairness in this.

2. The idea of charging irrigators more to cover decreased revenue in drought years is abnoxious. Drought affects everybody. Wheat growers would love the idea of being able to charge 5 times as much for their wheat because lack of rain meant that the yield was only a fifth of the yield in a good year.

3. Treasury wants to take a 7% return on investment. Did the current treasury build the dam? Does treasury want a 7% return on every other piece of public infrastructure built since federation?

4. The income divide between urban and rural populations is already substantial. Earlier increases to irrigation charges caused our enterprise to move from growing soya beans as our main irrigated crop to growing cotton. There was no choice. The water was made so expensive that the only crop that would cover costs was cotton. Making irrigation unprofitable by imposing another round of unfair charges will see more people leaving rural areas to live in the cities. Profitable irrigation and its flow on effects of job creation and boost to the local economy, is the lifeblood of towns like Trangie and Narromine.

We fully support MRFF and the NSW Irrigator's Council who will have a more detailed submission. We request the opportunity to attend a public hearing in Dubbo to further discuss these issues.

Yours faithfully,

Tm Quigley.
T.E & P.M. Quigley.