

Tenandra

Scheme

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

Dear Mr Cox,

Re: Macquarie Valley Water Price Increases

I write on behalf of both the Tenandra Scheme and Buddah Lake Irrigator's Association, two privately owned and operated irrigation schemes on the Macquarie River each with allocations of 35,500 megalitres.

Macquarie River Food and Fibre is the peak group in the Macquarie valley representing all irrigators and has submitted a response to State Water and the Department of Natural Resources submissions. However our Schemes feel it is imperative that we emphasise our concerns in the strongest possible way on one of the most important issues.

Our Schemes are deeply concerned by State Water's submission which is proposing approximately 150% increase in water pricing. The issue that needs addressing is why are irrigators the only financial contributor when there was a number of beneficiaries identified by COAG in the 1994 agreement.

Burrendong Dam was initially erected for flood mitigation to protect townships and their inhabitants from major flooding however over the years as irrigation has increased, irrigators are now the only identified user and expected to pay all the costs when they use only 26% of the total flow in the Macquarie. Irrigators are satisfied with the user pay system however challenge the notion of one user pays all the costs for all beneficiaries.

Mr Cox we ask that your organisation address the issue of beneficiaries pay urgently, as it does not appear that it has been adequately addressed by IPART in the past. DNR and State Water have totally disregarded that other beneficiaries should pay and have conveniently left out any mention of them in their submissions. It would also appear that IPART is doing the same as this issue has been on the agenda for many years and still remains unresolved. We therefore question just how independent IPART is and whether it really has got the determination or the resolve to finalise some of these long outstanding issues.

There are many other issues that IPART need to address however this would probably be one of the most glaring. As the independent body governing these issues, irrigators rely on your organisation to be fair and equitable and put a stop to this monopoly.

Our organisation would be happy to attend an IPART hearing and talk on this issue or any other issue addressed in MRFF's submission.

Yours sincerely
Lyn Davies
Secretary