

10-11-00:12:00PM, 02 5491 / 603 # 2 / 2
T&S D'Arcy P/L,
PO Box 177,
Bega,
NSW 2550

The Chairman,
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Bulk Water Review,
PO Box Q 290
QUEEN VICTORIA POST OFFICE,
NSW 1230.

Dear Sir,

We wish to register our objection to the recent announcement, by the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, regarding water pricing for users on the Brogo River. The Brogo Dam was originally constructed by the NSW Government to provide water for irrigation for the farmers of this district and we are now being threatened with exorbitant price rises for water which will destroy our livelihood and have a disastrous effect on the whole community.

The increases proposed over the next twelve months to two years are unacceptable and will test the viability of our dairy farm. In fact, our farm will not survive. We employ one casual and two full time staff, who will lose their jobs.

During the last few years we have been through one of the worst droughts in one hundred years. This has put huge financial pressure on us but we have continued to put strategies in place that will make us more efficient and productive. Amongst others, these strategies include water use efficiency and irrigation scheduling. This will not happen if there is any increase in the State Government water charges.

We are a small tooth in a large cog and if we don't survive neither will many other dairy farmers in our region and this will have a flow on effect through our entire community. Bega has a population of approximately five thousand people. The Bega Cheese Factory and the dairy farmers between them directly employ over one thousand people. Indirectly, through related businesses, eg. agricultural suppliers, machinery companies, veterinary services, transport companies and financial institutions, well over two thousand people would be affected by a downturn in our industry as it is the major industry in the community. The multiple effect will be devastating to the Bega Valley.

We hope that you will take notice of our objections and seriously consider the implications of such a decision as proposed.

Yours faithfully,

Tom and Stephanie D'Arcy for T&S D'Arcy P/L