

The Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
1 Part
Bulk Water Review
P O Box Q290
Queen Victoria Post Office
New South Wales 1230

18th November 2005

Dear Chairman

I have 42 years in the irrigation industry. I am the owner of a small business in the rural area of Bega.
Over the past 19 years I have built up this business to employ as many as 11 people. We service the Bega Valley land holders with their irrigation needs.
This area has endured enormous hardship over the past 5 years, with droughts, very high grain prices as well as the rising fuel costs with no relief government wise. The local dairy industry has been destroyed with de regulation. Farmers are now receiving half the milk price they enjoyed before. These farmers are struggling to pay their way and many are leaving reluctantly as they can no longer make ends meet.
As an employer I have reduced my staff level to 6 people and I am considering further reductions as a flow on effect with no money coming in from the farming community. To increase the cost of water to the farmers at this time will spell nothing but **Devastation** to my business and many other local businesses in the town and surrounding areas.
I think that the people who are in charge of making these decisions need to get out of their Ivory Tower and get into the **REAL WORLD** we the country people have to live in.
If these proposed new charges are implemented our business will suffer as the farmers will not be able to afford to irrigate their land, the flow on from this for us will mean we will have to put off at least 3 people and maybe close our business and seek the dole from the government.
I plead with you to consider the how serious the implications are of your actions in this matter. If there has to be increases, they need to be implemented over a 10 year period and when the farmers can afford it.

Yours Faithfully
William Kerton



Bega Farm Supplies



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Yours Faithfully
Russell Kerton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Kerton", written over a horizontal line.

Bega Farm Supplies