

Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal

P O Box Q290

ONS Post office 1230



Dear Sir,

We wish to object to the proposed increase in water charges for Peel Valley irrigators.

We produce fat cattle - sheep & hay (store farmed). Our neighbours are Dairy Farmers. The effect of the proposed increases would make us unviable.

Without irrigation to enable us to feed stock in dry times & conserve hay our stock numbers would need to be reduced by half. This would not be a profitable proposition & we would sell out - no doubt at a greatly reduced price.

Should this be the case the likely purchasers are hobby farmers running horses for pleasure. No doubt you know there is a large equine centre in Jamunah.

I have always believed "Productive land producing food" is what Australia & the World needs.

Do you wish to see land prices reduced irrigations become unproductive & abandoned - The viability of the Jamunah Gunnedah area substantially reduced.

The irrigation industry in the Peel Valley while small by State Standards is a high value one & its inevitable closure will have a devastating effect on the economy in this area.

Yours faithfully

David & Pamela Gowins