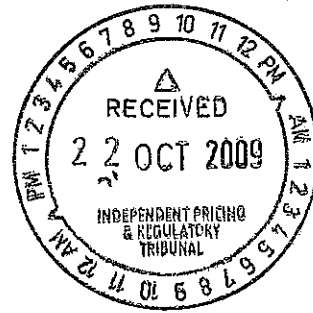


19th October 2009



State Water Corporation Price Review 2010
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
P.O. Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE. NSW 1230.

SUBMISSION TO IPART – BULK WATER PRICES FROM 2010.

I am writing to ask that IPART urgently consider uniform water pricing across the state of New South Wales, during their current round of considerations. An increase of only a \$1 per megalitre across the state for all water source licence holders would represent a small impost on everyone, but allow the smaller enterprises such as those in the Peel Valley, which sources water from Chaffey Dam, to remain viable.

Being an irrigator in the Peel Valley sourcing our regulated water from Chaffey Dam I see the reasons as below –

1. Uniform pricing would put all water users on a level playing field, as at the moment with the increase in water pricing for the Peel, it is far from level. The proposed increase in water charges for our Valley I believe is ‘daylight robbery’ and represents a totally unrealistic increase and still allow our small irrigation industry to survive.
2. Through no fault of the irrigators in the Peel Valley, we have a Dam which just cannot be on a ‘cost recovery basis’ – it is totally unreliable because of its small size.

3. If the suggested IPART pricing goes ahead for the Peel Valley, our irrigators and indeed the industries which rely on that irrigation production will be in dire straits.

We urgently seek your consideration of this issue – this Valley will suffer enormous financial stress under the suggested new pricing structure, and we will not be able to compete in the marketplace, with many producers forecasting their inability to remain viable.

Our Valley has struggled for many years with drought, slashed water availability and now we are looking ‘down the barrel’ of a further huge impost.

We ask for consideration of the unique features of this Valley, which are made up on the whole of small family farms, irrigating small areas of land productively, but struggling to survive.

We look forward to hearing of your urgent consideration of our concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Swain.