

Mr James Cox
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Mr Cox,

We are dairy farmers who rely on irrigation from the Brogo River and are deeply concerned with the proposed price increase on the Brogo River system. A rise from the current \$31.20/ML to \$99.21/ML is completely impractical from a farming point of view, putting irrigation out of reach through sheer cost. This in turn will have a negative effect on the sustainability of our farm.

With persistent drought, high feed costs and low milk prices, increases in the cost of irrigation water would seriously affect the sustainability of local farms relying on water. Dairy farms are vital for the local economy providing numerous jobs on farm and at Bega Cheese. A reduction in milk supply would impact on Bega Cheese costing jobs. We believe that the state government's operating subsidy of Brogo Dam should continue as the side benefits to the local community far out weigh the costs

We support the submissions provided by Bega Cheese and NSW Irrigators Council and strongly urge a rethink on the proposed price increases.

Regards

Josh Hergenhan