

KD & JL KIMBER

23 October 2009

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

Emailed to: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

BROGO RIVER IRRIGATION

Once again it seems we must fight against a proposed price increase for our water, of ridiculous magnitude. Is IPART going to keep proposing what farmers cannot afford and drive us right out of business, and close down the dairy industry on which our region depends?

We are the largest supplier of milk to Bega Cheese – we depend totally on Brogo irrigation water – without it during these past few months of zero allocation we have spent \$300,000 (from 1/7/09 to 30/9/09) on hay purchases – we are operating in a loss situation and it is a matter of how long our bank will allow us to erode our equity. We are an efficient modern family dairy operation.

The dam has a large catchment and will, we know, refill with rainfall and be available to us once again. But any cost increase will be extremely hard to bear, particularly at this time of continuing drought and reduced milk prices due to the global financial crisis.

I cannot see how you can ever expect to get to full cost recovery on such a small system with so few irrigators – we really need the NSW Government subsidy to continue.

Please consider our case, it is critical to us.

Yours sincerely
KD & JL KIMBER