

To Whom it May Concern

I, Stephen Douglas Ireland, am the part owner and manager of Southern Farm Supplies which is the largest locally based supplier of inputs used by the agricultural sector on the Far South Coast of NSW. Our business, in common with most others in this area is highly dependent on the on-going viability of the dairy industry which accounts for 75 - 80% of our turn-over.

I submit that a move towards a full user-pays basis for charges for water utilised by irrigators in particular but also other water users in our district is likely to seriously undermine the viability of the pasture-based agriculture undertaken in this district.

It is my contention that there are a large number of beneficiaries of any water utilised in agriculture in addition to the actual users and that therefore there is a strong case for a spreading of the costs of storage on supply over the whole community.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Ireland
Southern Farm Supplies