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Your submission for this review:

Our farming operation produces wheat, barley, cotton and corn. Primary products of human survival. In terms of employment and annual revenue we are categorised as a small business. (<https://www.asbfeo.gov.au/small-business-data-portal/number-small-businesses-australia>). We farm in an irrigation area, an area which contributes to 50% of Australias agricultural profits (<https://www.mirrigration.com.au/ArticleDocuments/212/General%20factsheet%20-%20Company%20Overview.pdf.aspx?embed=Y>). An 18% increase in annual costs plus CPI to our most essential commodity, water, would render our business inoperable for a prolonged period of time if not indefinitely. A majority of our associates would fall into the same category of business type and turn over as us, thus suffer the same fall out. A brief review of Australias CPI performance shows an increase of 3.5% in this September 2024 quarter. In the unprecedented year of 2021, almost a full financial year after the covid pandemic impacted our economic operations the greatest increase in CPI was household furnishings (16.9%) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/jun-2021>). A government initiated rise in costs of 18% out performs the majority of inflation driven costs by more than 15% and an unforeseen and uncontrollable globally driven increase to an exorbitant outlier by more then 2%. Media worthy protests and court cases have seen industry professionals battling for 3% pay rises (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-09-30/nsw-nurses-midwives-accepts-industrial-relations-commission/104415002>). This percentage is a tipping point at which they deem the necessity of work sustainable to endure the rate of living costs. Comparatively, if our government cannot afford to increase their input costs into their essential commodity, people, how do you think our industry can survive an 18% [minimum] increase to our input costs of this essential commodity, water? As an industry governed by the people elected to represent us how will this benefit the health of our industry? What is the idea behind this huge increase in costs and what is your intention to do with the proceeds? No services have been altered or improved to justify any cost rise, let alone one so high. Rural towns exist because of farmers. Without them the retail industries, schools, hospitals, service industries and councils become redundant. Australia has found itself in a sustained predicament of housing crisis and employment disaster. Currently, Rural areas are providing affordable housing and supplying employment where the metropolitan areas can no longer cope. Basic Economics will dictate the flow-on effect of making an essential commodity unaffordable. Within your power, is the ability to lessen the crisis of housing and employment by encouraging and supporting a thriving industry, starting in agriculture. Within your power is the ability to prevent the increase of non-variable costs to an industry that supports a large part of your economy, provides a balance in your international negotiation power and provides a secure food supply (<https://kg2.com.au/an-in-depth-analysis-of-the-australian-agricultural-sectors-macroeconomic-impact/#:~:text=The%20sector%20plays%20a%20pivotal,of%20economic%20growth%20and%20stability.>). What will you do to support the people who elected you? What will you do with the power you have been granted to support our environment and economy?