

Author name: Name suppressed

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Your submission for this review:

To whom it may concern, I am writing to express my concern in relation to the review of prices for both WaterNSW and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC). WaterNSW and WAMC are seeking massive charge increases over the next five years; 18% plus CPI for general security water entitlements and 16% plus CPI for water take (use) per year, every year. If you hold 1,400 water entitlements and you use water equal to 60 percent of that entitlement, your annual bill will increase by more than \$16,000. The percentage of the total bill which is government charges will increase from 33% to 53%. These additional costs cannot be passed on to the buyers of my product (cotton, corn, canola, wheat). The proposed charge increases are another hit to my farm business profitability; the farm sector cannot absorb these impacts. There is no transparency in either the services or their costs for irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Valley. IPART has a vital role to protect water users from these monopolies. It is very difficult to work out the costs, It is difficult to understand what services customers are paying for. My business is reliant on general security water and access to water in the allocation market. There are fundamental issues with cost sharing between water users and government. We are being asked to pay more while government reforms are reducing our access to water. Water is the entire reason our community exists, if we are priced out of using irrigation we will not be able to stay. Families will leave and services will shut down.