

*We are irrigators in the Peel Valley of the Tamworth region. Our produce plays an important part in the local economy supporting a number of local pursuits and businesses.*

*The proposed price increases that have been put forward by WaterNSW and WAMC are totally excessive and unacceptable. We are not able to set the price of our produce and rely on reasonable management of our costs to ensure our ongoing viability.*

*Price increases proposed by Water NSW and WAMC in their Base Case mean that entitlement charges would rise from \$10.73/ML to \$36.85/ML, an increase of 243% whilst the usage charges would increase from \$34.53/ML to \$152.49/ML, an increase of 347%.*

*How are irrigators supposed to pay increased water charges like these and still be viable?*

*Even the Alternative proposals put forward by WaterNSW show increases of 15% plus CPI each year over the next five years which would more than double the water charges over the period.*

*The actual cost increases incurred by WaterNSW and WAMC are not at the level of the proposed price increases and it is indirect and direct government charges and cost sharing arrangements which are driving up the price of water.*

*We urge IPART to take into consideration the direct and unfavourable impact that these*

*proposed price rises would have on our business and the regional economy.*

*regards*

[REDACTED]

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Sent from my iPhone