

27 October 2020



Review of Water NSW's rural bulk water prices

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

P.O. Box K35

Haymarket Post Shop

SYDNEY NSW 1240

IPART's Review of Water NSW's Rural Bulk Water Prices from July 2021

Dear Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal,

On behalf of the West Corugan Board of Management and our 293 Members, may I express our extreme disappointment and concern at the excessive increase in bulk water fixed charges and bulk water usage charges proposed by Water NSW from 1 July 2021.

Whilst we accept that these are proposed charges only at this stage, it is alarming to note that IPART's own review figures indicate a 55.4% increase in the fixed High Security entitlement charge; a 40.1% increase in General Security entitlement charge and a 46.6% increase in usage charges for 2021-2022.

These are exorbitant price increases and are simply not justifiable.
The average Inflation Rate over the past five financial years is only 1.6%!

Following the ACCC's own Murray Darling Basin Water Inquiry (Jan 2020), strict reporting of all water charges has been imposed upon irrigating organisations, but that same level of reporting and transparency is not being observed by the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 (pages 27/28) lists the proposed price increases, but a complete and independent breakdown of these charges needs to be provided to all stakeholders. West Corugan is of the strong opinion that all MDBA fees and charges need to be transparent and subject to ACCC and/or IPART scrutiny.

On the back of two years of drought and zero allocations, West Corugan irrigators are not in a position to pay the inevitable price increases of over \$2.50 per entitlement in fixed charges and anticipated \$1.24 per ML in usage charges.

West Corugan Private Irrigation District virulently opposes price increases of this magnitude and requests all proposed MDBA and Water NSW price increases for 2021-2022 be scrutinised.

Yours Sincerely



James Nixon

Chairman

WEST CORUGAN PRIVATE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

West Corugan Private Irrigation District

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