

SJ & J ALLOTT
'PONTIBAH'
ABN 29 627 860 850

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| AUST. COMPETITION & CONSUMER COMMISSION MELBOURNE |
| 16 APR 2014 |

Stephen & Judy Allott

9th April 2014

Mr Sebastian Roberts
General Manager
Water Branch
ACCC
GPO Box 520
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Sir

We are writing to you in regards to the exorbitant price increase by the State Water NSW to the Peel Valley Water Users.

We are very disappointed to have the ACCC give the recommendations for the price increases and that it is set so high.

Peel Valley is the highest priced water in the state.

All rain comes from the exact place that God sends to this earth- the sky. The Tamworth region seems to be singled out for the highest charges in the state. Water, electricity and fuel. Why? No one seems to be able to explain this.

We at present have to pay to two different Government Departments for our Water Licence. One to NSW Office of Water and the other to State Water. Why is this not one body as a whole. Also we still have to pay for this 'use' of Licence and water even when these Departments cannot supply us with water. It's like paying for usage of electricity without receiving the supply.

These high prices are crippling our farming business. We cannot sustain the costs in producing our products and we will be looking to having to find employment off farm, while trying to keep the farm running and the banks and creditors from our doors.

Our irrigation farm is becoming near impossible to sell on the market, as no one wants to buy such a costly business, when they can do the exact same in a cheaper area of the state.

At present no irrigation property sales are happening here in the Tamworth Peel Valley, as the uncertainty of water prices and the availability is an unknown at present.

We have diversified many times in our business to try and keep our heads above water so to speak. But this is about the last straw for us. Farming has been our life employment.

There is no reason why even at present charges should be so exorbitant. Why is the price of water not set at a sustainable and even playing field across the whole of NSW?

We have spent time and money over the years improving our production with new technology in water saving practices. We produce some of the best products and they are in demand, but now we are getting to the point we cannot afford the price of electricity and water to produce our products.

Farming is a very poor paying position as it is. With droughts floods and commodity prices to deal with, Australia does very little to support one of its most producing and productive industries.

Many decisions are made in offices by high paying bureaucrats that have no idea of the struggles and implications of their decisions of people's livelihoods.

This decision to increase the water to such a high cost will have a devastating affect for many farmers and their families in this Valley.

We urge you to reconsider this decision to make an even playing field on water pricing around the State.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen & Judy Allott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen & Judy Allott.