

The purpose of this E-mail is to express our opposition to the proposed increase in water charges for the Peel Valley.

We believe the proposed charges are savage, most unfair, and out of line with water charges in neighboring areas (eg the Namoi). We also believe that the proposed increase in charges have been put forward without due and proper consideration of the ramifications of their implementation.

The entire exercise appears to be the continued pursuit of the blind obsession of recovering costs of Chaffey Dam which was built a long time ago. One wonders what further charges will be imposed when Chaffey Dam is finally augmented and already paid for by taxpayers, including residents of the Peel Valley.

Farmers are now paying very high charges for water in the Peel Valley and the proposed increases would make activities, such as stock fodder production unsustainable. Unfortunately, farmers cannot increase the price of their product to cover the proposed increases in water charges.

If the proposed increases are implemented, the result will doubtless be that many farmers in the Peel Valley will find themselves in parlous financial situations, and be faced with possible sale of farms and/or bankruptcies. This situation will have a negative flow-on effect throughout the entire Tamworth community. It will also adversely affect many Tamworth businesses such as agricultural suppliers and irrigation suppliers.

It would also appear that Tamworth residents and businesses would be facing substantial unjustified increases for their water.

The bottom line is that the proposed increases in water charges are unfair, unsustainable, and will have a very negative effect on the Peel Valley and Tamworth. There is no way that these proposed charges can be justified.

We request that the proposed charges be rejected.

John & Joan Bailey

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