

A D (Tony) Housden

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16-4-2014

Submission to the ACCC with regard to water pricing in the Peel Valley

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to object to the water price both current and proposed - imposed on the irrigators of the Peel Valley.

Why there is such a huge discrepancy between water users in the various river valleys is unfathomable. Most other infrastructure is subsidised across end users. A degree of local variance is acceptable maybe 10-15% but the huge variances in this case are wrong.

The Peel valley is part of the feeder water supply to a number of other valleys, eg the Namoi and Darling, so why are the Namoi irrigators paying much less than the Peel irrigators when a lot of the Namoi water has to pass through the Peel valley and its structures before getting to the Namoi?

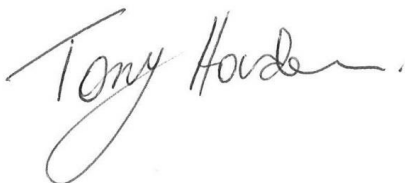
If it is a matter of State Water raising a set dollar value across the state, then a small increase across all other valleys would raise more funds without significant impact on anyone, than levying such a huge cost on the small number of irrigators in the Peel.

The anti-competitive nature of this charge means that a number of irrigators are likely to cease production, the flow on effect of this will be reduce employment, unproductive and uncared for land, less irrigators to pay for the upkeep of infrastructure. This may lead to the infrastructure already in place become non-viable, this cost will then become a government cost to either maintain or remove.

The risk of uncared for land has a big impact from the source to the estuary with regard to weed and pest populations spreading, into other cheap water areas.

The current and proposed water price is unconscionable, anti-competitive and just wrong, I urge the ACCC to reject any increase and also to look at the bigger picture of water charges across NSW and propose a system of levies that is fair and equitable to all agricultural users.

Yours sincerely



AD (Tony) Housden