

My submission is to voice my disapproval at the excessive water charges that are incurred by Peel Valley water users.

Written in to federal legislation (Commonwealth Water Act, 2007) is a clause prohibiting the charging of prices that produce 'perverse or unintended pricing outcomes' aimed at curbing excessive costs being applied by state organisations.

Is it not an extremely 'perverse outcome' for Peel Valley irrigators to be charged a water usage fee of \$55.13 per ML (or possibly \$71.92) while irrigators in the Murray Valley pay just \$2.49 per ML for exactly the same liquid substance???

The purpose of the ACCC is to 'promote fair trade and competition'. How can such a perverse situation be considered fair???

95% of the water in the Peel Valley is end of stream environmental flow. Only 5% of the Peel Valley water is used by Tamworth Regional Council and other Peel Valley water users. When that 95% leaves our valley and flows into the Namoi River it becomes part of the 95% annual extraction flow then available to Namoi irrigators who pay a water usage fee of \$20.92 per ML. How can the ACCC consider this a fair and competitive situation???

Because 95% of Peel Valley water is environmental end of stream flow then it should not be the irrigation community of Tamworth Regional Council who have to stump up the full recovery usage costs imposed by government regulators. Surely these costs should be covered by an environmental subsidy!

Yours faithfully,

Doug White

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