

State Water Submissions,

I am writing to you on behalf of our family who operate a dairy farm at Tamworth. We moved our family operation from the mid north coast to Tamworth 12 years ago. It was a big decision , but we believed to continue to grow our business, there would be more opportunity and be more farmer friendly west of the Great Divide. Most of the coastal towns were more concerned with the tourism dollar than the continuation of the farming sector. Interestingly those towns have suffered more financial pressure in the last few years than the towns that have a strong agricultural industry. Our average size farm has an average gross income for the last 3 years of approximately \$850000 per annum. Most of this money is spent in our local town and surrounding area.

Our family is very disappointed that the ACCC has recommended in its draft decision that irrigators in the Peel Valley pay a water usage fee of \$55.00 per ML compared to \$2.50 per ML in the Murray Valley. It also seems totally unfair that the Namoi Valley is charged less than half the water usage charges than the Peel Valley, particularly when the Namoi Valley receives around 95% of the long term average annual end of stream flow from the peel river.

We believe water usage charges should be the same throughout the whole of NSW. The extra charges for the Peel Valley farmers is a direct cost to our business, as well as the grain and fodder farmers we deal with. These extra charges and the message it sends, all have to be considered when weighing up our future of dairy farming in the peel valley.

We believe careful consideration should be given to the recommendation to charge excessive water use charges in the Peel Valley and the financial effect it would have not only on farmers but the whole community

Regards

Brian Wilson

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