

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2013 5:55 PM  
**To:** [water.submissions@qca.org.au](mailto:water.submissions@qca.org.au)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed water charges for Warrill Valley Irrigation Scheme Queensland Competition Authority

From Ian Harsant [REDACTED]

SUBMISSION TO QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY

Angus MacDonald re proposed water charges for the Warrill Valley Irrigation Scheme

After attending the meeting held in Kalbar on the water charges I am absolutely amazed that rises of such proportions could even be entertained.

7.5% for Part A was bad enough but when it is suggested that Part B could rise by over 50% it could well signal the end of a lot of irrigators in this valley when it is added to the recent horrific rises in electricity charges.

I do believe that most people would have been happier with the \$30.87 suggested by Seqwater. Perhaps you could approach the Government for assistance to cover these costs. The Government has stated on many occasions that primary production is to be one of the four pillars of the economy. It is unfair to ask irrigators to cover the whole of these costs when the benefits of the flow on effects come into play providing employment and secondary industries in the district.

Ken Willett who is an economic policy specialist with ACIL Tasman quotes Brisbane public transport is subsidised at 75% which is about \$1.1 Billion per year so surely some assistance could be provided along these lines. I would suggest then that irrigators would then begin to use water again.

I feel the years you have used to predict future usage are bad examples with record wet years and record dry years when water could not be used.

Mr Bradbury promised to send us figures for perusal but unfortunately they did not arrive.

At the present prices some primary industries cannot use irrigation as a means of production. One example is the fattening of beef cattle on irrigated pastures can be no longer carried out economically. Also after the prolonged dry summer many lucerne growers are of the opinion that it is not acceptable to irrigate with the water required to obtain a payable crop in the heat of the summer. Primary Producers are price takers not price makers and these increases may signal the end for many so I hope government managers at all levels will realise the seriousness of the situation.

I commend you on your presentation at the meeting and I hope it is not a case of the Doctor prescribing medicine which will kill the patient.

Regards

Ian Harsant  
Oaklea