

Thank you for the offer and allowing an extension of the closing date of submissions to Coliban Water's proposed rural Tariffs

I would like voice my concern with the total of the water price,

The method of arriving at the total price I'm not arguing about and I understand there are many views on the value of all the charges that make up the total price that we as rural customers pay for water.

The concern is the total amount of money required that farmers have to pay to produce their goods.

The viability of farming enterprises comes into question.

If we as farmers can't produce food economically due to water pricing, some may be forced out of business and food will need to be bought in from other areas or worse still imported, taking jobs out of our local area and maybe the country as well as increasing our reliance on foreign imports.

Prior to the drought our farming enterprise was the largest private Rural water entitlement holder in the Coliban system. In an effort to curb our cost and stay in business we have been forced to give away more than 1/3 of our entitlement.

As the costs have risen many other rural customers have relinquished their water entitlements and have received nothing in monetary value for something that has in times past been a great asset. We and all other rural customers of Coliban Water have been deprived of the ability to offer our entitlements to other areas and I believe it would be timely to have legislation altered to allow the "Unbundling of Water" There is a lot of talk in the community on this issue and I believe that many more will have no choice but to hand their entitlements back in to Coliban Water

I understand the need to recover costs however could the cost incurred "Recovering Costs" be too great?

Please give this it due consideration.

Would be happy to discuss this further if you require.

Regards

Paul Mannes