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## Irrigators Welcome State Water Pricing Change

NSW Irrigators Council has welcomed a move by State Water to collect variable charges from interstate users of NSW water allocations.

Council Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson says the anomaly of interstate users of NSW allocations not paying variable charges effectively meant irrigators in this state were subsidising interstate use.

“In 2008-09, just under 986 gegalitres of water was traded out of NSW by way of temporary transfer. For a very large portion of that, there is no mechanism to collect the variable charge component as it obviously was not extracted in NSW.

“If State Water does not collect those funds from the interstate users, then that forgone revenue must come from its existing customer base – irrigators in NSW.

Mr Gregson said the Council supported the interstate trade of water, where practical, but was keen to ensure that no third party impacts were felt.

“Water Access License holders must be able to manage their asset in the way that they best see fit. That may include trading allocations intra or interstate. It is important, though, that third parties don't suffer impacts – financial or otherwise – from that process.

“We support State Water in their move to correct this anomaly by collecting usage charges at the approval point of interstate transfer, regardless of when and where the water is extracted.”

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