



NSW IRRIGATORS' COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lachlan Fixed Charges Deferral Cautiously Welcomed

The NSW Irrigators Council has cautiously welcomed an announcement by NSW Water Minister Phillip Costa that fixed charges for Lachlan Valley irrigators are to be deferred by six months.

Council Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson says that there just isn't any let up in the situation faced by Lachlan irrigators, who are now to their third year of zero allocation and have received a total of only 22% (cumulative) in the last 8 years.

"Whilst deferral will certainly assist with cash flow for irrigators, this isn't a solution.

"Given the low probability of sufficient rainfall to provide an allocation in the coming six months, the NSW Government must immediately announce that they will pay these charges on behalf of irrigators in six months if allocations are not made.

"Six months relief doesn't allow for emergency situation planning for irrigators. We're calling on Premier Rees and Water Minister Costa to find some compassion, to find some dollars and to commit them to irrigators in the Lachlan now for use in six months.

The Council recognised the efforts of Minister Costa and the NSW Office of Water on the issue to date.

"We understand that Minister Costa and his people have worked hard on behalf of irrigators in this matter. We ask him them to continue that work and bring this matter to a swift resolution."

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