



The Peak body for five landholder associations and 1600 irrigators in the Murray Valley

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## Media Release

### Southern Riverina Irrigators refuse to pay fixed water charges

Southern Riverina Irrigators (SRI) will refuse to pay the NSW Government fixed water charges for the 2008/2009 season.

The unanimous decision was made at an emergency meeting of SRI executives in Deniliquin on Wednesday.

"Facing the third year of a zero allocation, failing winter crops and no prospect of growing a summer crop, our members are angry and fed up that our requests for the State Government to waive the fixed charges of approximately \$5.5M are continually ignored. As a result we have no other option than to take this action." Mr Ted Hatty Chairman said.

"Exacerbating our frustration is the recent announcements of \$30M for a motor racing complex in Sydney and a substantial financial aid package for other forms of entertainment also in Sydney. This is a sad day when the Government's priorities fail to recognize the importance of food production.

The financial injection for sport and entertainment has shocked drought affected irrigators and communities to the core. We just cannot believe that food production and security are clearly being ignored without mentioning the financial hardship being faced by our farmers and their communities over the Great Dividing Range." Mr Hatty concluded.

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The End.