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**Water Reforms are Undermining Our Ability to Feed and Clothe the Nation**

My farm business in the Riverina is being crushed by countless ongoing water policy reforms in NSW and federally.

I am struggling to compete against the $40 billion worth of cheap food Australia imports annually, and now the NSW Government wants to increase my water bill to a level that will be fundamentally unaffordable to many businesses in my community. Threats of increases between 130% - 180% are completely unacceptable.

With all my other costs already through the roof, I just can’t absorb any more. It’s neither fair or reasonable for me to have to absorb the cost of inefficient bureaucrats, especially when Sydney households have had their water bill rises capped at 55%.

On top of this, the Federal Government is hellbent on recovering up to 450 GL of water, despite ABARES warning it will drive up water costs for remaining farmers. ABARES says rice and dairy will struggle to compete, but even horticulture is at risk in the next big dry.

These are just a few of the many ongoing reforms causing serious angst for myself and my neighbours. We are sick of being hit with endless new regulations, reforms and price hikes making it harder and harder to stay on the land.

If the NSW and federal governments want to get rid of family farms, they are going the right way about it.

These matters must be taken seriously by senior members of the NSW Cabinet. I want them to stop taking farmers for granted and start implementing policies to keep us competitive, not drive us out of business.

Signed,