



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/1434  
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.  
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

**Title:**

Press release: Water rates in the Murray up-river areas and Mypolonga Highland

Please acknowledge the source as:  
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.  
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/1434

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

PRESS RELEASE

143A 14/2/74  
239(u) 270

FROM: THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (Mr. Frank Kneebone)

Increases in wage costs, holiday pay loading and electricity charges have forced the State Government to review water rates in the Murray up-river areas and Mypolonga Highland.

The Minister of Irrigation, Mr. Kneebone, said today the situation would have required a rise of ten dollars per hectare to cover the escalation in costs since the last adjustment in 1971-72 and approximately sixteen dollars per hectare to meet further known and anticipated increases in costs for the current year.

However, the Government was determined to keep increases to a minimum.

Mr. Kneebone said the Department had taken account of losses caused by recent unseasonable weather conditions in setting the new rates.

As a result, even with the higherrates, growers could expect to pay less for irrigation water this year than last year.

The Minister said that experience had shown over the past several years that the rebate offered to districts which had a five general irrigation program was no longer an effective incentive for economy in water usage.

For this reason the rate fixed for five general was now the actual charge to apply.

Mr. Kneebone said that State Cabinet had approved increases of less than five dollars per hectare for both four and five general irrigation programs.

In addition, a rate for three general irrigations had been set. This was \$6.75 less than for four general.

This was an innovation to allow irrigation Advisory Boards

to reduce the number of general irrigations according to the needs of the majority of settlers in their district and so minimise the annual charge to which they would be liable.

The new annual rates for the 1973-74 season are -

For 5 general irrigations, \$61.75 per hectare

For 4 " " \$54.75 " "

For 3 " " \$48.00 " "

The charge for special irrigations will remain at \$2.00 per hour for the balance of this season and increase to \$2.25 per hour on the first of July.