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Form Information

Site Name NSW Department of Industry
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AFA Submission on metering consultation paper September 2018

The Australian Floodplain Association (AFA) thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed metering policy developed following earlier consultation with stakeholders, including the AFA.

We wish to make three points:

1. Language – Following the Matthew’s Report community expectations are that 100% of irrigators will have their pumps metered. This is not explicitly stated in your consultation paper nor is it the language used by staff in the Webinar meeting of 24 September. To gain the confidence of the public the AFA suggests you say that 100% of surface water irrigators who have pumps equal to or greater than 100mm capacity will be metered. The same should be said for ground water users where pump capacity is equal to or greater 200mm.
2. Time Frame - The three year gap between the publication of the Matthew’s report and the deadline for installation of meters in the Northern Basin (December 2020) does not instil community confidence in the government. Every effort should be made to reduce this timeframe if the government wishes to regain the support of the community. We suggest you target largest irrigators first and leave the smaller irrigators until later in the program.
3. Monitoring and Compliance – If metering is not required in the Northern Basin until December 2020 there has to be an interim comprehensive, accountable, transparent and well-funded monitoring and compliance program where staff are permitted to demonstrate diligence and persistence. This is what the community expects and the minimum it deserves. Most responsibility will fall on the Natural Resources Access Regulator but all those involved in water management have a responsibility to ensure our water resource is well managed.

Terry Korn

President

Australian Floodplain Association

30 September 2018

C.C. Natural Resources Access Regulator