

Your details

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Type of submission: I am making a personal submission
Do you want your name published?: Yes
Privacy statement: I agree to the above statement

Your submission

Enter text below or upload a document:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Water Metering Framework. I am a dairy farmer and Toonumbar Dam water user. I would like to support the submission from the Toonumbar Water Users Group and also add further information on the reason we believe Toonumbar should not be included under the general policy, regulations and mandatory conditions established for the Murray Darling Basin. An important objective of the metering framework is that benefits of water measurement outweigh costs. There is a very strong economic argument that this is not the case for Toonumbar water. Last year when setting water prices, the IPART tribunal were appreciative of the high irrigation costs on the Toonumbar system and the resulting decline in the number of water users (from 2004-05 to 2015-16 extractions reduced by 46%). They developed a new approach specifically for North Coast and South Coast regulated water. Their approach considers the customers' capacity to pay and the WaterNSW's avoided costs (IPART, Review of prices for WaterNSW - Rural bulk water service from 1 July 2017 - Issues Paper, September 2016, p.39). The end result of IPART's review was a decrease in the price of water to encourage greater usage. Even so, water availability remains very high. According to WaterNSW Water Operations latest report, Toonumbar Dam was 100% full at the start of the current Water year and by the end of July 2018 had fallen to about 98%. This is after a period of extremely dry weather and a drought declaration for our area. In the last water year the dam was 100% full most of the time. The fact remains that Toonumbar water is costly and difficult to extract and often requires several pumping sites in order to extract sufficient water from the shallow sandy creek. Steep banks and rapid water rises also create logistical nightmares for raising and lowering pumps. Measuring and metering Toonumbar water take with the proposed metering systems will have no benefit either locally or within broader catchments. However, the cost will be high. The number of water users is likely to reduce further and the multiplier effect of the lost income from these farms will create a significant decrease (estimated to be in the millions) in spending in the local region each year. I believe the metering network needs to consider the North Coast catchment area separately and to set thresholds appropriate for this catchment. Fleur Tonge

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Form Information

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Site Id 47409
Page Standard Name NSW Government's Water Reform Action Plan
Page Standard Id 134654
Page Custom Form Name Submissions on draft metering regulation and policies
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