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to me

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Over the past 20 years we (representatives of the Yanco/Billabong Creeks Systems) have been supportive and instrumental in taking metering along our system to the next level of compliance, but also technology. With Water for Rivers, a number of water users along our system agreed to take part in a pilot to assess suitable infrastructure to perform a reliable outcome at the most efficient price. Many different systems were tried including; inverted syphons, in-line (suction/discharge), and total reconfiguration. All of these were adapted with telemetry to allow the monitoring of usage. Linking telemetry to metering was seen as a real opportunity to use the technology and data link to also simply monitor system levels and stream flows at any given pumping station. This was ignored by Water NSW, and unfortunately to the detriment of having a closer monitoring system on stream conditions. Water metering was subsequently rolled out to the remainder of users under a contract between Water NSW and Condam. Water users were told this was necessary to meet compliance standards and that telemetry would alleviate the need for CSO's on a regular basis. Besides a few hiccups and delays, meters were installed. Maintenance was to be costed with the rest of the water usage fees from Water NSW and assessed via the IPART decision tree. Water users were not necessarily happy with an additional charge, but accepted there needed some form of maintenance, mainly with the telemetry, as the meters have no moving parts. Maintaining a central base for maintenance of meters and telemetry is essential as we move down the road of greater regulation and rules. The IPART decision system appears fair, and this should be followed for setting pricing for the maintenance. I would support the status quo and maintaining the current structure for maintaining the metering and telemetry systems.

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