

Your details

Title: Mr
First name: [REDACTED]
Last name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Organisation (if relevant): [REDACTED]
Position in organisation: director
Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Type of submission: I am making a personal submission
Do you want your name published?: No
Privacy statement: I agree to the above statement

Your submission

Enter text below or upload a document: I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S PRIVACY STATEMENT AS YOU DON'T PROVIDE SUCH A STATEMENT TO READ. Submission on draft metering regulation and policies. The Department of Industry-Water attempt at public consultation was nothing short of an embarrassment for the department and the NSW Government. It was poorly advertised in an attempt to have minimal irrigators attend. There was no group question or answer forum. The personal available were incompetent in answering irrigators questions. If the Department is serious about reform would it not be prudent for the Department to hold public meetings with competent people so that irrigators can understand what the proposed requirements are. Due to the NSW Government incompetence in managing water regulation in the past, it now is applying a knee-jerk reaction to the whole metering requirements. I have nothing against accurate meters on the heavily extracted water sources. I do reject the notion of installing expensive meters on water sources that are rarely accessed. The unregulated system in the Namoi has had a flow three times in the last ten years. There will be no recovery or security of water from metering these systems, just an extra financial burden on irrigators that are struggling to stay afloat because of the lack of rain over the last decade. The NSW Government will feel good about itself in putting irrigators under more financial stress, because we all have meters now, even if there is no water to pump. The allowed time for submissions is unacceptable, many irrigators are under considerable stress and pressure due to this extreme dry period. How will the submissions be taken seriously when the regulation will commence on 1st Dec 2018. It is obvious that there is no intention on taking on board any of the stakeholders concerns. The time frames specified for the requirement of pattern approved meters, again demonstrates how out of touch the Department is. There is not enough qualified installers to install and seal meters, even if the meters could be sourced. The fanciful idea of having everything connected via telemetry is an absolute disgrace. In a little over twelve months does the Department seriously expect to have every meter telemetered?, is there even a standard developed for what format the data will be generated? Is there reliable equipment? The Department can not even guarantee that their own small telemetered network is reliable. We have existing gauging stations now on surface water that can not operate reliably. The irrigators are expected to foot the bill for untested and unproven technology, and then find out it's not acceptable. Many irrigators have had extensive experience with telemetry on their own farms over many years and have witnessed the expense and the frustration of unreliable equipment. I outright reject that this proposal be implemented until there has been a widespread trial to quantify the reliability of such an expensive scheme. For existing modern meters, I have failed to see any explanation on how an irrigator can demonstrate that their meter is within +/-5%. This would be an extremely time consuming task, considering we presently have one duly qualified person in the entire Namoi Valley. The information provided about existing meters actually contradicts itself. In one sentence it states that the meter has to be +/-5% and then a few sentences later it states that it needs to be within +/-2.5%. In summary, I reject this half-cooked rushed metering framework in it's existing format. This has all come about because of the negligence of the NSW Government and the Department not fulfilling it's requirements over many years of water regulation. Namoi irrigators have been calling for lead seals on meters

for years, however were totally ignored. Suddenly when a sensationalised media report exposes the incompetence of the Government, all the blame and risk is placed on the irrigator.

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Form Information

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