

9 August 2019

Water Reform Taskforce

NSW Department of Industry

To Whom It May Concern

We are irrigators in the South West Riverina on the Murrumbidgee and Murray systems, and were part of the Pilot Metering Rollout prior to April 2019.

We have five metered installations, of which two are underground and one suspended above ground on the inlet side of the pump. We were assured that at the time of rollout, and since then, these installations were compliant with Government standards AS4747.

We understand now, that the underground installations will have to be relocated to the surface. At the time of installation, we, like other irrigators, were informed of the location of where these meters must be installed. There was **no consultation** with irrigators concerning the positioning, design and installation of these meters. The underground location, as with all other locations, had already been determined as part of the initial rollout. In addition, our previous meters were no longer valid and deemed outdated. There was no compensation for the value of these meters.

We understand that there is now a proposed Transfer of Metering to Private Ownership and new Compliance Standards.

We believe that the following recommendations should be duly undertaken:

- That these publicly held meters, (specifically, meters where the landholder does not wish to participate in the 'voluntary' transfer of ownership), remain in Government ownership under the current existing arrangements;
- That appropriate consultation, between WaterNSW/Department of Industry and affected landholders occurs and is ongoing, to identify issues and resolve problems;
- That the Government fully funds and makes compliant all metering installations that it currently owns, and have them validated by a 'duly qualified person', prior to any handover;
- That where any Transfer of Ownership occurs, the depreciation component of the annual fees and charges be refunded;
- That data loggers not be required on meters already equipped with telemetry with built in data capacity.

We allow our submission to be made publicly available.

Yours faithfully

Anthony and Francine Gorey

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