

As an artist/activist and grandmother and ex primary producer, living in the Coorong in South Australia. I never want to revisit the disaster we had back in 2007-20010 I will never get memories of the stress and despair of the people here out of my mind, and I know now that what we were saying then was right it wasn't just the Millennium drought it was blatant over extraction as well, evidenced in the Ombudsman's reports, we need this plan as it was written in full with all states to comply, but it cannot have SDL changes till we have all these issues sorted out and solid adherence by all states to do the right thing.

Over the last few years as a Healthy Rivers Ambassador, I had heard in passing many times that NSW and Victoria were trying to undermine the plan (white anting) were the words used in the hopes that it would collapse, I took this with a grain of salt, as just state bickering, but then I noticed that these states continually blamed SA for standing in the way of the plan of playing political games etc. Using orchestrated words like black mailing and holding to ransom, but not once did I hear SA say they wanted to pull out of the plan or walk away, yet that is exactly what NSW and Victoria did the minute things heated up, so I wonder if there was more substance to what I had been told.

I have always stood for the whole basin, as I am from Orange in NSW and I have family and friends in every basin state and I want to ensure that we have a sustainable future for all generations to come.

We only have one shot at getting this right and given that the original modelling was done on 2800gl and that didn't meet all the targets, the plan started off flawed as it was already down 50gl, then you look at the fact that it was modelled on a reasonable river system not a severely stressed one and it's not good to me.

Add to that the billions of litres that have allegedly been taken and the continued allowance by governments to approve new business of thirsty crops, while they state that they have bought back 2020gl roughly some of that is still contracted and not actually there yet, and climate change then common sense says the path forward is not a good one, you can only stretch something so far before it snaps.

These are just questions I have in relation to what has been going on across the basin in the last few years.

- NSW prior to the signing of the plan changed licences and pipe diameters to give themselves more.
- Non compliance all through from NSW and Vic with NSW allowing large vested interests to take and store.
- Over payment for water sales, and misappropriated money for works.
- Complacent in following complaints and not being transparent and accountable.
- Not acting on the reports tendered by the ombudsman first in 2006 4th Intrum report Nov 2017. Noting same complaints about 2 non compliance problems throughout all complaints.

- Majority of these complaints were brought forward by staff.
- Nail Blair called for the Ken Mathews report and agreed to implement directions from that report yet he has gone against this all ready as he is trying to help stop the EDO get water usage data by Harris.
- NSW is now saying that implementation of meters can't happen till 2019/20 yet I have asked both the MDBA in September 2017 and MR Blair in November in person in Albury and again by phone and email in Feb and March where the 31.2 million dollars that was allocated to them in the June COAG minutes for telemetric meters is, and if it was used for metering why they were not aware of overuse if it wasn't where is it. I am still waiting. **Note I just received a letter from Minister Blair regarding this please see attached, I still find this to be lacking.**
- I think that there should be a Moratorium or something to stop multi-nationals continuing to plant thirsty crops such as the case around Mildura with the multitude of Almonds going in on temporary licences to the detriment of both the river and all the family farmers etc.
- The secrecy around the pipeline to Broken Hill.
- The importance of Cultural flows

- The 605 cart before the horse, if this gets signed off on and there are real risks and more unknowns, it takes affect straight away in July but the packages of which according to scientists who are impartial from the Wentworth group only one meets the criteria and they can have up to 10yrs what happens if it doesn't work where is the plan B. Water is finite and if we let the river die it's gone and so are we. Would it not be more practical to release the SDS adjustments as the packages are brought to fruition and demonstrating that they are working then make those adjustments. Also from reading the MDBA's report many of these packages are up and running, so how does this affect the water figures and modelling. Is this again double dipping, and if they are all reliant on each other than shouldn't the adjustments be at the end not at the beginning.
- We must insure the 450 it is part of the plan and the down water does not work without the up, but the 5% rule means that part of the 605 is from the 450 so are we not losing more real water left in the system again.
- We all forget the benefits of a healthy river, which is what this is all about, healthy eco systems and a well river creates health and prosperity for us all for our future generations we need to look to alternatives for our futures and ensure the plan is

implemented in full as it was meant to be so that we can all
benefits and prosper not for the wealth creation of a few
vested interests and multi-national companies, it's not the plan
destroying peoples lively hoods it's the greedy few that give
back nothing to communities but continue to take.



Little Jetty

Thank you, Mrs Rosa Hillam.

SA 2009



Lake Albert Meningie 2010

Big Jetty Lake Albert 2009





The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

IM18/3508

Mrs Rosa Merlino-Hillam

Dear Mrs Merlino-Hillam

Thank you for your email of 13 February 2018 concerning the \$31.2 million for New South Wales telemetric metering mentioned in the June 2017 Council of Australian Governments meeting minutes.

The Sustaining the Basin – Metering Program is part of the National Water Initiative which is an agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the states and territories. The program includes the development of national metering standards, including meter-related data collection.

The expenditure of \$31.2 million referred to in your correspondence concerns telemetric metering in the Southern Valleys of New South Wales. This project involved installing or replacing 710 state owned telemetry enabled meters that conform to the National Framework for Non-Urban Water in the Murray, Murray-Lower Darling and the Murrumbidgee catchments. This was completed on 23 August 2016..

The Barwon-Darling River system which was the subject of the ABC *Four Corners* Report, was not part of the Southern Valley Metering Project.

A New South Wales Water Take and Metering Strategy is being developed as a result of the recommendations from the Ken Matthews AO independent review of water management and compliance.

Further information on the Southern Valley Metering Project and the NSW Water Reform Action Plan has been included as attachments to this letter.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

SUSTAINING THE BASIN | METERING

Southern Valley Metering Project – Overview

Factsheet 1 – December 2015

Background

The National Water Initiative (NWI) is an agreement between the Australian Government and states/territories which includes the development of national metering standards, including meter-related data collection.

The NSW Metering Scheme is being carried out in a staged approach to enable NSW to comply with the national metering standards.

The scheme aims to improve accuracy and fairness by ensuring the vast majority of total extractions in the regulated, unregulated river and groundwater systems are metered.

WaterNSW is implementing the NSW Metering Scheme on behalf of the regulatory authority, the Department of Primary Industries Water (DPI Water). To date, more than 1,300 new water meters have been installed in southern NSW through the scheme.

WaterNSW is also using the opportunity to enhance customer service.

The Southern Valleys Metering Project

The \$31.5 million Southern Valleys project will see a further 700 new water meters installed across the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower-Darling valleys in 2015-16.

The new water meters will be fitted with telemetry, a vital link in providing water usage data to improve the efficiency of river operations, and ensure prompt monitoring of water extraction.

Installations are scheduled to commence in May 2015 following a consultation process with customers to discuss their specific site requirements.

Compliance

Installation of the new meters will help customers meet their requirements under the national metering standards, called the Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF).

The MAF prescribes that all meter owners must comply with requirements including meter installation to certain specifications, regular maintenance and assessments to ensure meters are working correctly.

Under the MAF, the compliance date for regulated, unregulated and groundwater users is June 2016.

The *Water Management Act 2000*, under which your works approval is governed, sets out requirements to install, maintain and operate any device or devices for measuring the volume of water extracted by the approved works.

Your options

Customers who are required to have a meter under their works approval and who choose not to participate in the NSW Metering Scheme (finishing July 2016) will be required to install any necessary meter at their own cost.

If you do not require a meter as you will no longer be using these identified works for extractions, please contact your WaterNSW Customer Field Officer (CFO) on 1300 662 077.

Value for money

The water meters and installation are provided at no cost to customers. The meters will however be subject to an annual metering service charge (MSC). The MSC is applied to cover the cost of maintaining the meters in accordance with the national metering standards. Charges will vary depending on the size and the type of meter installed.

Charges explained

2015-16 MSC (regulated rivers)

Type of meter	Government-funded meters with telemetry	Government-funded meters without telemetry
50mm	\$352.51	\$370.47
80mm	\$352.60	\$370.57
100mm	\$353.08	\$371.04
150mm	\$371.27	\$389.23
200mm	\$391.25	\$409.22
250mm	\$395.99	\$413.96
300mm	\$397.25	\$415.21
350mm	\$406.52	\$424.48
400mm	\$451.87	\$469.84
450mm	\$548.69	\$566.34
500mm	\$556.25	\$573.91
600mm	\$85.22	\$602.89
700mm	\$595.84	\$613.51
750mm	\$596.89	\$614.56
800mm	\$628.27	\$645.93
900mm	\$676.08	\$693.75
1000mm	\$679.52	\$697.18
Channel	\$6,790.40	n/a

Charges shown based on the 2013-14 ACCC determination and CPI adjusted accordingly.

Regulated river charges

WaterNSW will own the new regulated meters.

The regulated river MSC is set by the ACCC as part of the WaterNSW pricing determination.

The MSC will be invoiced quarterly in arrears and arrive with your regular WaterNSW invoice.

The Southern Valleys Metering Project is funded under the Australian Government's Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program as part of the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan in NSW.

2015-16 MSC (unregulated rivers and groundwater)

Type of meter	Charge
Mechanical meter – with data logger	\$236.18
Electromagnetic meter – with data logger	\$309.36
Electromagnetic meter – with data logger and mobile data modem	\$403.61
Electromagnetic meter – with data logger and satellite data modem	\$752.89
Channel meter – with mobile phone or satellite telemetry coverage	\$752.89
Other	\$236.18

Other charges available at the DPI Water website
<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-licensing/metering/metering-charges>

Unregulated and groundwater charges

DPI Water will own the new unregulated river and groundwater meters.

The current pricing determination for DPI Water by IPART has been extended until 30 June 2016.

This means unregulated and groundwater charges for the 2014-15/2015-16 financial years will not be adjusted for inflation and will remain at the same levels as those set by IPART for the 2013-14 financial year.

Accuracy

If you have a concern about the accuracy of your new meter, please call the WaterNSW helpdesk in the first instance on 1300 662 077 or your local CFO.

If you elect to have your meter tested, a deposit of \$1,688.13 for regulated and \$1,665.38 for unregulated and groundwater systems is payable prior to testing.

The deposit will be refunded in full should your meter prove to be inaccurate.



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 Department of Agriculture
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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2015). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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