

Hunter valley water users association

## Submission – Review of Water NSW's Non-Urban Metering Reform Charges

The H.V.W.U.A would like to convey to you their full support for the detailed submission of the NSW Irrigators council into the review of Water NSW'S Non-Urban Metering Reform Charges. H.V.W.U.A are a member of the NSW irrigator's council.

The H.V.W.U.A represents Licence holders in the Hunter regulated and unregulated systems. Our members cover several industries from dairies, to hay making, to cropping, food production, and vigneron's.

Currently in the hunter valley all licence holders including stock and domestic are required to install pattern approved meters. Those currently without water meters must comply by December 2021, those with current water meters have until December 2023 to comply.

These new costs proposed will affect all licence holders in the hunter and not just 100mm pumps and over as the Non-Urban metering reform implies.

In the Hunter valley there are a number of smaller licence holders with small allocations (30 Megs and less). The cost of compliance to the Non-Urban Metering of approx. \$10,000 per site to purchase, install and certify the pattern approved meters on top of the proposed 35% increase on water NSW's water charged and then to bear a 100% of Water NSW's Costs of the Metering reform charges is cost prohibitive and against the metering objectives of the Non-Urban water Metering – Undue costs on smaller water users are minimised.

Customers currently self-report meter readings and place orders on the I was system. This system is currently funded and operating. The water nsw general enquiries and help desk is currently funded and operational, why do they require to duplicate the funding for this resource that is currently operational and funded. Water NSW should be reimbursing irrigators for their time in taking readings and self-reporting the reading to water nsw. NOT charging irrigators for doing this work.

Water NSW currently receives funding for water Meter readers. Charges to irrigators have always risen at determination, however Water NSW have reduced the number of Meter readers around the state from thirty three to currently about fifteen. In the past three personnel were based in the Hunter. Now one remains. Why are irrigators again being charged for services they already fund?

The hunter valley water users association believe that with the current pending price increase, 35%, plus the costs involved with replacing existing accurate water meters (Water NSW are happy using these existing meter readings to measure water use and charge customers on that measured water use.) That the proposed new charges are excessive and should be fully funded by the state government and not passed onto water users.