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Date of submission: Monday, 9 December 2024

Your submission for this review:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief submission. I write as an irrigator within the Murray Irrigation Area of Operations. I ask a simple question - what services do I receive from WaterNSW and should these services cost Murray Irrigation up to \$27.25m per year (\$22.50/WE x 800,000 WE and \$18.50 X 500,000 ML). It is my understanding WaterNSW - processes a daily order from MIL for two river offtakes and operates these two offtakes - processes advice from MIL daily regarding water escape flows and manages the regulation of the receiving waterways - MIL meets the monitoring and compliance costs for the two offtakes - conducts Community Advisory Group meetings (generally 4 times per year) - Undertakes River water quality monitoring in association with the MDBA - is the approval body for external water transfers and transformations. Customers are charged a fee, presumably this function is user pays based. - passes on to irrigators charges determined by the MDBA for its river operations and monitoring costs. - maintains Stevens weir. I understand the Yarrowonga offtake is maintained by MIL (this may be incorrect) While I appreciate there is an organisational support structure to enable the regional functions to be undertaken I question the cost that is being proposed for this organisational support and the regional functions undertaken. I would welcome advice on other key functions WaterNSW provides to MIL members As an irrigator I am subject to charges from MIL, WaterNSW and the MDBA (via WaterNSW). It is critical that I am only paying for the appropriate functions once. I ask that IPART - ensure there is no duplication of costs at a regional level - that all the costs incurred by MIL to undertake the functions that WaterNSW incur providing services to other water users are fully detailed and deducted from the charges applied to MIL. I suggest the current level of the ICD does not do this. I am appalled that WaterNSW has attempted to justify its proposed charge increase on a capacity to pay basis. Surely WaterNSW should be focussing on what is absolutely necessary, not what it thinks water users may be able to afford. I am horrified at the scale of the proposed level of increase to the charges. I ask IPART to critically review the current functions, what they would reasonably cost and how these costs would likely increase in the coming 5 years due to wage changes and other material cost increases. It is very easy to spend someone else's money. -My family run an intensive irrigated cropping business using the latest water application technology and water use technology to ensure efficient water use and to achieve high levels of productivity. The enterprise margins (\$/ML) are small and when combined with the business overhead costs results in relatively low profitability. My full time employees each take home more than I receive in business profitability in many years. Increases such as those proposed will instil additional unreasonable pressure on business viability. I am willing to share the impacts of the proposed charges on my business and to provide further comment from a water user perspective. I have not been involved in any WaterNSW led discussions regarding the proposed charges nor received an invitation to attend any discussion that may have been held.