Wednesday, 1 September 2021

The Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP

Minister Water, Property and Housing

GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001 [Lodged Electronically](https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-water-property-and-housing) Via Portal

**RE: Application for Ministerial Exemption for telemetry requirements due to no network connectivity with existing approved devices**

Dear Minister

I/We have been working hard towards achieving full compliance with our metering requirements for 90CA/WA…… on the property “property name”, townXXX within the Water Sharing Plan of the Gwydir Regulated River/Gwydir Unregulated Water Source.

On insert date of letter, I/we received the following advisory letter from NRAR (see attachment 1). Despite my/our best efforts and through no fault of our own, NRAR confirmed in this letter, I/ we remain non-compliant.

Although whilst their letter states at this point, we are not under further investigation due to our efforts.

The risk that NRAR change their view concerns me/our business. I/we want to be fully compliant using our validated transitioned meter/newly installed, pattern approved meter but on-farm testing revealed there is not enough signal for any of the approved devices to connect and transmit to the DAS. However, telemetry is required by the metering reforms.

After waiting for a solution that is yet to arrive and following NRAR’s later communication as part of compliance reporting in September, that included a pathway to compliance in my case is to request an exemption. I/we are writing to request a Ministerial Exemption under S.233 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* to be exempt from telemetry requirements until such time as a suitable device is approved and becomes available. Our Duly Qualified Person/Certified Meter Installer has recommended this option to us based on their technical knowledge and experience as evidence in Attachment 2.

The supply and approval of devices is out of our control. The Department set the requirements of the devices. It is responsibility of the market with Department support, to provide solutions that meet these requirements. It is then the responsibility of WaterNSW to test and approve devices. This has not been achieved with full options for all types of meters or site conditions by the required deadlines.

Its important to note that the meter, which meets the requirements of the regulations will be logging data as required by the rules it just this cannot be transmitted. Existing requirements such as any logbook requirements, routine meter reads by WaterNSW and full access by NRAR remain.

We request your approval to provide certainty to my/our business to continue to use our infrastructure without fear of further action from NRAR through no fault of our own.

Yours sincerely,

Licence Holder DQP/Certified Meter Installer

Mobile CMI: XXXX

Email Mobile

 Email

Attachment 1: NRAR Advisory Letter

Attachment 2: DQP notification and evidence of no telemetry.

Cc: Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, gvia@gvia.org.au

 NSW DPIEW, regulatory.implementation@dpie.nsw.gov.au