

From: [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission: Macquarie-Castlereagh water management plan feedback
Date: 07 November 2022 10:49:51

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Sent: Saturday, 5 November 2022 2:53 PM
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox <regionalwater.strategies@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Macquarie-Castlereagh water management plan feedback

Dear PDIE staff,

I wish to contribute my feedback to the Draft Macquarie-Castlereagh water management plan as a small scale but licensed irrigator on the Castlereagh river.

Under current rules I am only allowed to draw water from the Castlereagh river, when there is no visible flow, between 6 pm on an even number day and 6 pm on an odd number day. It forces me to irrigate my crop during the middle of hottest part of the day, causing significant water losses, further the electricity I need to pump the water is coming from a network already operating at maximum capacity. Causing me extra expense, and contributing to the potential overload of the electricity network.

The net result of this arrangement is that on average I am allowed to irrigate for a little less the 50% of the time, as there are more odd numbered days then even number days in a year.

I propose that the requirement be changed to: when there is no visible flow in the Castlereagh, irrigation is allowed for a maximum of 80 hours during any 7 day (168 hours) period, at a time of day most beneficial to the environment and agricultural production.

This would give farmers the flexibility to access the water during night times and on cloudy days so as to get the most efficient use of the water with minimal evaporation losses. Or if they choose, they could irrigate during off peak time when demands on the electricity network are not as great.

The total hours of pumping would be less, further the amount of water taken will be less, as less is lost to evaporation. While maximising agricultural production with minimal water and power resource use. remember that the maximum amount of water taken is still limited to the amount specified in the irrigation licence held by each farmer.

Please make this change, farmers and the environment will thank you.

Regards,

[Redacted signature block]