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2022-11-16 18:12:21 +1100	pratley.jkr@gmail.com	Jeff Pratley	Oakbrook 1284 Sofala Rd Peel NSW 2795	428376548
Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?	Are you making this submission as an individual or as a representative of an organisation?	If making this submission as a representative of an organisation, who do you represent?	Do you agree that these are the most important water challenges for the Macquarie-Castlereagh region?	Please outline what you see as the priority water challenges in this region over the next 20 – 40 years?
No	Individual			
Priority 1: Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns	Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?	Priority 2: Reduce water security risks for the Lower Macquarie	Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?	Priority 3: Support industry climate adaptation
Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?	Priority 4: Best use of existing water for the environment			

Should any proposed actions in this Consultation Paper not be shortlisted and why?

Comments on Draft Regional Water Strategy

Macquarie–Castlereagh:

Shortlisted Actions – Consultation Paper

October 2022

Please refer to Major Water Storages List, Page 8

It is beyond illogical to include Winburndale Dam on a list with Burrendong Dam.

Winburndale Dam has just over 1/1000th of the capacity of Burrendong Dam.

If Winburndale Dam is to be included then the exclusion of Suma Park Dam from the list with a capacity over 10 times that of Winburndale Dam is equally illogical

Please refer to Operation of Suma Park and Winburndale dams, Page 54

Councils may own the dams, but the environment supplies the water, and deserves a share, no matter the climate conditions of the time. Even in drought the environment supplies itself with some water.

The artificial starvation of the ecosystem through the suggested suspension of Environmental flows during extreme drought is the sole direct result of ever increasing demand due to the continued exponential growth of both Bathurst and Orange.

This growth has been coupled with decades of inaction by all levels of Government relating to investing in increasing secure water supply to match this population growth.

Bathurst Regional Council (BRC) already illegally enacted such a policy of basically suspending environmental flows, and was found by the regulator NRAR in 2020 to be in breach of their operating conditions for Winburndale Dam.

Of note BRC whilst breaching the Dam operating conditions still had to enact extreme water restrictions and had a zero water date, so ceasing environmental flows is clearly no long term answer to Bathurst's drought water supply issues.

Considering the NSW government forecasts Bathurst's population to reach 57000 by 2041, an over 25% increase on today a better solution than ceasing environmental flows must be found.

We as residents of NSW should be ashamed that the Environment being forced to go without is even being considered as a false solution to our water supply issues in times of dry.

What a lazy, short term approach for the Environment to suffer the burden of our resource hungry first world existence.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeff Pratley

Oakbrook (Bathurst) Pty Ltd

<p>Should any other options in Attachment 1 of the Consultation Paper be shortlisted?</p>	<p>Which actions should be implemented first and why?</p>	<p>I give my permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.</p>
		<p>Yes</p>
<p>I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.</p>	<p>Would you like to be kept updated on progress on the development and implementation of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy?</p>	<p>How did you hear about the Public Exhibition of this strategy?</p>
<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Word of mouth</p>