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18 November 2022

Regional Water Strategies  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124  
Email: regionalwater.strategies@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy – challenges and shortlisted actions**

Thank you for the opportunity for Central Tablelands Water (CTW) to provide support for the shortlist of proposed actions to be potentially implemented in the Macquarie-Castlereagh region.

As background information, CTW is a County Council proclaimed in 1944 which currently provides quality drinking water to approximately 15,000 consumers in the local government areas of Blayney, Cabonne, Weddin, Cowra and Bland. An emergency bi-directional pipeline has also been commissioned linking CTW and Orange City Council water filtration plants to further assist in regional water security and resilience.

Although CTW's water sources (i.e. surface water and groundwater) are all located within the Lachlan Valley catchment, CTW supports the following four (4) priorities of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy, due to its strong nexus with the Lachlan Valley region.

- ***Priority 1: Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns***
- ***Priority 2: Reduce water security risks in the region's west***
- ***Priority 3: Support industry and community climate adaptation***
- ***Priority 4: Best use of existing water for the environment***

As a regional water authority, traversing many local government boundaries, CTW in particular has a relevant connection with ***Priority 1: Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns***, and ***Action 1.6 – Plan for the best long-term water augmentation solution for the upper Macquarie***.

With inevitable future droughts and floods, increased storage in the Central West region is critical to meeting and managing future urban water supply demands. This increased storage will allow the capture of the high intensity variable rainfall events that are predicted in the future.



The Belubula Water Security Project Final Business Case is currently assessing both the Lake Rowlands to Carcoar Dam pipeline project and the Lake Rowlands Dam Augmentation project to improve the efficiency and resilience of water management within the Belubula Valley. Although the Final Business Case for the Belubula Water Security Project is being developed to align with the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy, it can also assist in water security and resilience for the upper Macquarie via the existing bi-directional pipeline between CTW and Orange City Council, and potential interlinking pipelines with Bathurst Regional Council and Cabonne Council at Molong.

The existing bi-directional pipeline between CTW and Orange City Council can also assist the Lachlan Valley with water security and resilience through the transfer of water from the Macquarie Valley as required.

CTW is a member of the NSW Water Directorate and holds associate membership with the Central NSW Joint Organisation and Local Government NSW. As a result of these memberships, CTW supports the submissions provided by these organisations for the development of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy.

On behalf of CTW, I would like to thank DPE Water once again for providing CTW with the opportunity of contributing to the development of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Strategy.

Yours faithfully,

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