

Created on	Email address	Name
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Address	Phone number	Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?
Merryanbone, Warren NSW 2824	418665649	No

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?
Individual		Yes

Please outline what you see as the priority water challenges in this region over the next 20 – 40 years?	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?
<p>{ "Action 2.1 - Investigate an additional off-river storage at Nyngan": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 2.2 - Create water savings through changed operation of regulated effluent creeks": {"Do you support this action?": "No"}, "Action 2.3 - Continue to investigate regional water security solutions for the lower Macquarie": {"Do you support this action?": "No"}, "Action 2.4 - Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon-Darling on a multi-valley scale": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"} }</p>	<p>The draft water plan action to pipe the effluent creeks downstream of Warren will not achieve the goals of the Draft Water Strategy. The effluent creeks are a vibrant and highly valued system which support a thriving and unique ecosystem, as well as valuable agriculture. They are valued by indigenous people as well. To replace this system with a pipeline would come at a huge economic cost and not achieve the aims of the plan.</p>

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
<p>{ "Action 3.1 - Invest in continuous improvement to surface and groundwater modelling ": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 3.2 - Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 3.3 - Support adoption of on-farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 3.4 - Undertake research to inform reviews of groundwater extraction and condition limits ": {"Do you support this action?": "No"}, "Action 3.5 - Develop ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"},</p>	<p>The Action to replace the effluent creek system downstream of warren with a pipeline will not help to achieve any of the above actions. Indigenous people are drawn to these waterways. replacing them with a pipeline is not going to create indigenous jobs, sense of place, or help with alternative forms of income such as tourism.</p>	<p>{ "Action 4.1 - Modify or remove barriers to delivering water for the environment": {"Column 1": "No"}, "Action 4.3 - Mitigate impacts to fish communities": {"Column 1": "Yes"}, "Action 4.4 - Remediate unapproved floodplain structures": {"Column 1": "Yes"}, "Action 4.5 - Provide clarity and certainty for environmental needs during drought operations": {"Column 1": "Yes"}, "Action 4.6 - Assess gaps in the flow regime and identify cooperative actions to improve ecological outcomes": {"Column 1": "No"}, "Action 4.8 - Identify regionally significant riparian, wetland and floodplain areas to protect or rehabilitate": {"Column 1": "Yes"} }</p>
<p>"Action 3.6 - Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 3.7 - Support the development of new water related Aboriginal business opportunities in the Macquarie-Castlereagh region": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 3.8 - Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support sustainable economic diversification": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"}, "Action 3.9 - Improve public access to the Macquarie Marshes": {"Do you support this action?": "Yes"} }</p>		

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

The Action to replace the effluent creeks downstream of Warren should not be included in the consultation.

1. Environmental reasons: This creek system is similar in size to the Macquarie Marshes and at its closest point, only 18km away. Similarly it is a vibrant and highly valued environment which supports a large number of water birds, native fish, and rare native animals such as the Duck Creek wallaby. There are also valuable flood plain grasses.

2. Economic Reasons: The effluent creeks downstream of Warren support a valuable agricultural industry, which employs a similar number of people, and produces produce roughly equal in value to the mining industry in the region. The action to replace these creeks with a pipeline would decrease land values by as much as 30 percent. The cost of constructing the pipeline would be far greater than any associated benefit.

3. Cultural reasons. The creeks are important for the local indigenous people who hunt and fish on them. There is enormous potential for indigenous-based water tourism industry. The action to replace them with a pipeline would not be culturally appropriate.

4. Questionable water savings - The communities of Nyngan, Warren and Cobar have not grown over the past 70 years according to ABS census. Therefore there isn't a need for additional water to meet the needs of a growing population in the lower Macquarie. Records show these communities have only come close to running out of water once in recent history (in 2019). Since then two off-river water storages have been built near Nyngan which will more than address this situation without the need to take more water from the effluent creeks downstream of Warren.

5. The Macquarie Marshes: The actions to "repair" and regenerate the Macquarie Marshes should not come at the cost of other important environmental systems such as the effluent creeks downstream of Warren. Decisions about environmental flows need to be made at Burrendong Dam - including taking more from the flood mitigation area.

6. The removal of unapproved floodplain structures on the effluent creeks downstream of Warren would contribute to the creeks becoming more efficient without the need to replace them with a pipeline.

Should any other options in Attachment 1 of the Consultation Paper be shortlisted?	Which actions should be implemented first and why?	I give my permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.
	The removal of unapproved floodplain structures on the effluent creeks downstream of Warren would contribute to the creeks becoming more efficient without the need to replace them with a pipeline.	Yes

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.	Would you like to be kept updated on progress on the development and implementation of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy?	How did you hear about the Public Exhibition of this strategy?
No	Yes	Communication from peak body