

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge the following submission on

NSW Western Regional Water Strategy

I would like to submit the following comments, my details can be included.

Climate change will bring extremes and high variability in rainfall patterns, coupled with increased numbers of hot days, higher evaporation and longer droughts. Up to 42% reductions of inflows are predicted for the Darling/Baaka.

Our rivers are already over-allocated; the management of water demand should be the central objective of the Western Regional Water Strategy.

I support the following Commitments and Options:

- The full implementation of Floodplain Harvesting reforms and regulations. This includes the reduction in floodplain harvesting volumes, no 500% carryover or exemptions, implementation of 16.5 GL plan limit on licences, removal of detrimental floodplain levees and structures before water access licences are granted and effective rules to protect the environment and build natural resilience in the system. (Commitments 2, 4, 5, 6: Options 25, 26, 27, 29, 44)
- The Darling/Baaka is an Endangered Ecological Community with native fish species at high risk of extinction, the river must be restored to health through improved water management and protection of flood events. (Commitment 3: Options 23, 24, 26, 28, 30-35)
- Recognition of the significance of First Nations cultural knowledge, water rights and interests including support for the River Ranger Program (Commitment 1: Options 16 – 22)
- Improve management of water consumption and storage for towns and industry to achieve efficient and sustainable water that recognises a water restrained future with climate change. Town water should not rely on an increased dependency on groundwater sources (Options 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, improve water information options 36 – 43)

I object to the following options that will lead to a reduction of environmental outcomes:

- Option 11: renew town weirs – to be replaced by water efficient off-stream storages
- Option 48: regulate Barwon-Darling River
- ‘Better Baaka’ options that will reduce the size of the Menindee Lakes

Yours sincerely,

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