

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Water Strategies  
**Date:** Monday, 21 November 2022 7:29:32 PM

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[REDACTED]

We are Alandale Produce which is a family run business operating at [REDACTED] employing a number of ongoing and seasonal workers. We produce a variety of vegetables including cabbages, cauliflower, kale, silverbeet and leeks. We produce commercial quantities of these vegetables for supply to Sydney Markets which includes further distribution to a number of clientele.

Should the cease to pump level be raised to a higher percentage, our ability to plan for future contract volumes and project supply commitments will be negatively impacted.

Our main concern is that we would also lose the ability to pump water from the Fish River, which was a reliable source during the last drought period (when Ben Chifley Dam levels were critically low), as it has no impact on the city of Bathurst's water supply. This water source allowed producers to continue growing their product.

Our business has made large financial investments toward reaching a high level of efficiency with our water assets, which has allowed us to remain a viable business consistently producing high grade vegetables for our customers, while our licence entitlement has not increased.

As Bathurst expands it is putting extra pressure on our water storage facilities and Bathurst Regional Council's solution to this problem is to reduce the irrigators' ability to access water along the Upper Murray Darling Basin.

This will result in uncertainty for all farmers futures along this valley. Not only will us as farmers be affected, but food supply chains for the community will be at risk as we will be unable to sustain a future of vegetable production.

As farmers, relying heavily on irrigation to continue producing our high grade vegetables we would like NSW Water to control Ben Chifley Dam's water storage, which will clarify cease to pump levels on the 1st July each year without fluctuation of allocations mid-season once the investment has been made.

In the past Bathurst Regional Council have made fluctuations after July 1st and if this is to occur in future, irrigators in the area will be financially compromised as financial commitments will have already been made to grow our product based on the cease to pump allocation given on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

We believe the solution to this issue is to enhance water security by having storage solutions increased to keep up with the growth of Bathurst and the existing irrigators water licenses.

We appreciate your time to note our thoughts and concerns on this issue and we hope you will consider our views when making the new Murray Darling plan.

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