

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)
Subject: Response: Draft Regional Water Strategy, Macquarie–Castlereagh
Date: Tuesday, 22 November 2022 4:25:35 PM
Attachments: [Response to Draft Regional Water Strategy Macquarie–Castlereagh.pdf](#)

Many thank for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Regional Water Strategy, Macquarie–Castlereagh and for extending the timeframe for submission.

Please find attached my response which I have also copied below.

Kind regards

Response: Draft Regional Water Strategy, Macquarie–Castlereagh

22 November 2022

To whom it may concern

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a landholder and grazier on the Winburndale Rivulet, Duramana, north of Bathurst, downstream from the Winburndale Dam.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Regional Water Strategy, Macquarie–Castlereagh.

It is gratifying to see that the Draft Strategy is being developed within a clearly articulated climate change context.

I do have a concern that the language used around ‘critical water’ access places this Draft Strategy within the Anthropocene mindset and therefore compromises symbiotic water use planning, which is the only way to reinstate and maintain a healthy, sustainable planet.

To this end my suggestions for consideration are:

- A healthy landscape is critical to a healthy community, be it urban, regional or rural. The environment and the water flows needed to sustain a healthy landscape must be central in proposals put forward by the Strategy. This should be its first priority.
- Ensure the definition of ‘water needs’ and ‘critical water needs’ is broad and inclusive of the requirements for sustainable water sharing beyond the simplistic anthropic definition of ‘critical human needs’ and ‘other users’. To simply focus on human life will not ensure a healthy sustainable landscape in the long term and is therefore pointless. The Strategy needs to encourage sustainable ecological decisions around water use and sharing during times of abundance and of scarcity.
- Oblige Councils to educate, implement and enforce water saving strategies across all areas of responsibility, *immediately*, regardless of the abundance or scarcity of water at the time. We need to establish water valuing and saving behaviours and change the mindset that water saving is only required in extraordinary circumstances. Water saving should be the responsibility of the entire community – government, business, and individuals. We have a shared responsibility in this as part of our commitment to the ecosystem in which we live. Wasting water is never an option.
- Oblige Councils that have management authority over water infrastructure to implement clear, transparent and well communicated management strategies that are focused on all stakeholders, with a healthy landscape as the top priority.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely

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