

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)
Subject: Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, 25 June 2022 9:33:46 PM

To DPIE

Submission on Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy

The Border Rivers contribute about 20% of the inflow into the Barwon-Darling, a flow that is crucial to the whole length of that river and everything and everyone that depends on it. New South Wales water authorities have in the past, including the recent past neglected their duty to the Barwon-Darling, resulting in massive algal blooms, fish kills that made world news, the demise of the mollusc population and many knock-on effects. I lived in Broken Hill during the Millenium Drought when cotton farmers complained about getting only half their normal harvest, while I installed a whole of system filtration system to my house so that my wife might not come up in a rash after her shower and hoping that the stinking water would not continue to kill or plants. I was told by a Council manager that Broken Hill had come within 3 weeks of being evacuated due to insufficient water to run the sewer system. We were saved by a local rainfall event that put some water into Umberumberka Reservoir.

The message here is that I do not want to see these events happen again.

Priority 1

Support 1.1 to 1.4 improving knowledge base, including involving Aboriginal people in water management.

Priority 2

Action 2.1 Investing in water use efficiency is supported with the proviso that if Government money is used, there needs to be a return of water to the river system.

Actions 2.2-2.4 Supported – better management of environmental water. On this topic, environmental water management should not be left to DPIE water managers alone. It needs local input from a mandated Environmental Water Advisory group that should include local knowledge and NPWS.

Priority 3

Action 3.1 Increase the availability of high security licences – strongly opposed. High security means permanent plantings that have to be watered during drought. That prioritises local agricultural use over downstream environmental and human needs. This is just wrong and probably illegal under the NSW Water Act.

Action 3.2 Diversification of regional industries should not include permanent plantings. Rainfall in the Northern Basin is too irregular for water to be dedicated to permanent plantings. Think about the Border Rivers and the Barwon-Darling as a whole – what are the needs of the whole system?

Action 3.3 – 3.4 Support cultural outcomes and business opportunities for Aboriginal people. These people were more than marginalised in the past and need to be given a chance to take a significant place in water delivery to cultural sites and a chance to take a share of water-based business.

Action 3.5 Support the provision of fishways etc to reduce infrastructure effects.

Action 3.6 Oppose the implementation of NSW Floodplain harvesting policy. The current policy is corrupt. FPH policy needs to return the take to 1993/1994 volumes when the Cap was supposed to be introduced, but if fact was flouted by means of vastly increased FPH.

Action 3.7 Remediate unapproved floodplain structures. Supported, but needs to be done before any floodplain harvesting licences are issued.

Action 3.8 Identify regionally significant riparian, wetland or floodplain reaches to protect or

rehabilitate – support.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)
Subject: Supplementary submission on Border Rivers RWS
Date: Sunday, 26 June 2022 10:12:28 PM

DPIE

In yesterday's submission I omitted comments on Priority 4.

Priority 4 Share Water Differently

Action 4.1 Map critical drought refugia – support. But note that refugia can change due to siltation and/or scouring due to floods. This is an on-gong task.

Action 4.2 Towns and groundwater. Towns should be made aware of options for groundwater use during droughts, but must also be made very aware that groundwater needs time to replenish and should not be used when surface water is available. Fractured rock aquifers can be very limited in volume and are best left as “for emergency only”.

Action 4.3 Bushfire demand – support.

Action 4.4 Investigate sustainable levels of groundwater and connectivity – yes investigation should be done asap, but no changes to rules before the State groundwater strategy is developed.

Action 4.5 Investigate options to improve connectivity across all Barwon–Darling tributaries through the Western Regional Water Strategy. Yes connectivity problems should be addressed as first priority before changes are made to the Border Rivers Water Sharing Plans (surface and groundwater) and especially before any floodplain harvesting licences are issued.

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