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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Your submission for Lachlan Regional Water Strategy

1. Information on confidentiality and privacy

I give my permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website.: Yes

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.: No

2. Your details

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Hugh McLean

Address: [REDACTED]

Contact phone number: [REDACTED]

Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?: No

Are you an individual or representing an organisation?: Organisation

3. Organisation or business details

Who do you represent?: Peak representative organisation

If you selected Government, please clarify.:

If you selected Peak representative organisation, please clarify.: Community organisation

4. Draft Regional Water Strategy objectives and vision

Do you support this vision for the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy? : No

If no, please outline your vision for the long term management of water resources in this region?:

This document is fundamentally flawed and I will attempt to highlight this under 2 main points. 1. Inclusion of Wyangala Dam enlargement as an existing commitment. This project must be removed from the documents because of the following: - the project is not approved at any level of government. - the project is not funded. -the project has not has an EIS, business case and hydrological modelling completed. - the costing listed in the document of \$650 million is severely underestimated with current predictions it will cost between \$1.2 and \$2 billion. - the project is currently under a NSW Legislative Council enquiry. - there is significant community opposition to the project and no community consultation has taken place. - will have detrimental impact on the Lachlan River Water Sharing Plan. - the enlarged dam may not be able to operate within the Murray Darling Basin Plan. - will have detrimental impact on the key environmental assets listed in the Water Strategy being the Booligal Wetlands and the Great Cumbung Swamp.

2. The Strategy document is focused on the upper Lachlan system. This is highlighted by the following: - exclusion of Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster as major water storages. These two storages are key in river storages that assist with the management of the lower section of the Lachlan river. - exclusion of the towns of Hillston and Booligal on the map of the Lachlan region. - no community engagement for this document was provided down stream of Lake Cargelligo.

#### 5. Information and modelling used to develop the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy

Do you have any comments about the information used to develop this strategy?:

Community engagement was poor. No face to face community engagement was provided down stream of Lake Cargelligo.

Please provide details if there is additional information you think we should consider?:

#### 6. Stochastic modelling method

Do you have any comments about the modelling method used to develop this strategy?:

Is there any additional information that you believe could help us assess the benefits and disadvantages of draft options?:

#### 7. Opportunities and challenges for water management in the Lachlan region

Do you have any comments on the opportunities, risks and challenges identified?:

Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that we should consider and what options could address these?:

Allow for high security stock and domestic water to be converted to high security water. This would allow for this water to be traded and used in more efficient and productive industries. It would also encourage holders of this water to use this resource more efficiently and encourage investment to do so.

#### 8. Draft Lachlan Regional Water Strategy options

Which five (5) options do you think are most important?:

Supporting Water use efficiency and conservation options 24 to 31.

Please comment on why you think these options are most important?:

Water use efficiency should be the key focus of this document. The proposed funding to Wyangala dam should be used in water efficiency projects along the entire system. This section should also include: -upgrades to Jemalong irrigation including installation of Total Channel Control technology. - upgrade of the Tarringanny wire. upgrade all in stream weirs to allow remote automation via telemetry connectivity to allow for real time management of water resources along the full length of the system. fast track pump metering upgrades to include telemetry connection to allow real time management by WaterNSW.

Which five (5) options do you think are least important? (If any):

2. Wyangala Dam enlargement. As stated in the opening question this option must be removed from the plan.

Please comment on why you think these options are least important?:

The Wyangala Dam enlargement must be removed from the documents because of the following: - the project is not approved at any level of government. - the project is not funded. -the project has not had an EIS, business case and hydrological modelling completed. - the costing listed in the document of \$650 million is severely underestimated with current predictions it will cost between \$1.2 and \$2 billion. - the project is currently under a NSW Legislative Council enquiry. - there is significant community opposition to the project and no

community consultation has taken place. - will have detrimental impact on the Lachlan River Water Sharing Plan. - the enlarged dam may not be able to operate within the Murray Darling Basin Plan. - will have detrimental impact on the key environmental assets listed in the Water Strategy being the Booligal Wetlands and the Great Cumbung Swamp.

Do you have any comments on the draft options?:

#### 9. Option combinations

Do you have any thoughts on how the options could be combined with other options?:

This document should be drafted with a whole of system water use efficiency approach. A systematic approach to the upgrade of all infrastructure in the system to allow real time management of the water resource would be a good starting point. Combine this with upgrade to customer metering would allow WaterNSW to run this system to its peak efficiency potential. These could be achieved at a fraction of the expected \$2 billion cost of the Wyangala enlargement.

Are there additional options that we should consider?:

-upgrades to Jemalong irrigation including installation of Total Channel Control technology. - upgrade of the Tarringanny wire. - upgrade all in stream weirs to allow remote automation via telemetry connectivity to allow for real time management of water resources along the full length of the system. - fast track pump metering upgrades to include telemetry connection to allow real time management by WaterNSW. These could be achieved at a fraction of the expected \$2 billion cost of the Wyangala enlargement.

#### 10. Other comments

Do you have any other comments about the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy?:

Wyangala Dam enlargement must be removed from this document.

#### 11. Referral

How did you hear about the public exhibition of this strategy?:

Direct email