

From: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Sent: Wednesday, 2 November 2022 10:21 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lachlan Regional Water Strategy submission

Hi, can you please add this submission to the list and reply?

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 29 October 2022 5:41 PM
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox <regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Lachlan Regional Water Strategy

I have read the very detailed submission and here is my reply.

The most important objective of the Lachlan RWS should be to use available water in a sustainable manner through better management of water demand. The health of the river system, wetlands and aquatic habitats should be the top priority.

The management in the past has been very minuscule and needs to be changed. Let's utilise what we have now in a better and more sustainable manner. I strongly support the removal of the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising Project and the Lake Rowlands Project as commitments under the Lachlan RWS. This proposal was a political grab before the last State election. No research was undertaken, no consultation with affected landholders, just a political announcement. This is not the way to enhance water strategy.

Here are my thoughts.

Priority 1: Build resilience to climate extremes.

A stronger focus on water efficiency and demand management for towns and communities must be a top priority for RWS including a public education program for purified recycled water use.

I support Actions 1.1 - 1.4, 1.6: Better governance, improved modelling, inclusion of First Nations people in decision-making, water efficiency measure for small communities.

I do not support Actions 1.5, 1.7 Increased dependence on groundwater for town water supply. This is not sustainable. Expanding the existing regional pipeline network will increase competition for water when the entire region is in drought. Demand management should have higher priority.

Priority 2: Ensure best use of existing water for the environment. An action to review river operations and remove constraints to natural flow through the system should be included under this priority.

I support Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5. Improved management of sedimentation, fish passage and Lake Brewster and the Upper Lachlan and the Lower Lachlan. An action to rehabilitate fish habitat between Wyangala and Forbes through mitigation of 150km sand slug should be included.

I have Conditional Support for Action 2.3: Assessment of upgrades of construction of new weirs in lower Lachlan must take all environmental impacts into account, including access to natural seasonal flow that supports wildlife breeding cycles.

Priority3: Support economic growth in a capped system.

It must be recognised that any growth in water demand under a capped system will cause decline in existing water dependent industries, particularly agriculture. We cannot sustain further corporate farming and corporate mining and at the same time remove so much prime agricultural land which will never be used again, just so corporates can expand. This is wrong.

I support Actions 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5. Improved access to climate information, climate impact study, employment and business opportunities for everyone.

While there is support for improved efficiency in the Jemalong Irrigation District, there is no priority action to deliver increased water security through this option. Why not?

Conditional support for Action 3.2: Assessment of all types of water use and irrigation all behaviour, including access ,to groundwater and impact of wet years, is critical to understand water sharing rules and limits.

Priority 4: Improved our knowledge of water resources.

The assessment of groundwater use and management should be a top priority in the Lachlan. Better management of floodplain development and structures should be a priority action.

I support Actions 4.1 - 4.3: Groundwater assessment, review of floodplain management plans, integration of strategic land and water planning.

This proposal has now gone over four years. When will the business case be finalised and presented to Cabinet?

Will there be a summary document released?

I am bitterly disappointed in the way this proposal has been presented until now. Our life has been held to ransom. We cannot make plans to move ahead and we are not alone, there are many of us. Please, work on the strategies listed. Also look at other options, not just raising the Dam Wall. Look at the Abercrombie, Boorowa River and Belubula systems. The impacts on these areas is certainly not as great. We are all extremely stressed and just want to get on with our lives. We voted this Government in, not the Corporates, so please let us have an answer.

Yours sincerely,

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Sent from my iPad