



**The Hon Niall Blair MLC**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

IM18/14935



Dr John Keniry AM  
Commissioner, Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Keniry *Sohn*

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2018, including a copy of the Natural Resource Commission's (NRC) review of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Bellinger River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2008* (The Bellinger Plan)

I note the NRC recommendation that the Bellinger Plan be replaced and I support this recommendation. The process of review and replacement provides an opportunity to deliver better outcomes, incorporate current science and knowledge, reduce ambiguities and ensure the robustness of the plan.

I have extended the plan for a period of two years to allow sufficient time for the Department of Industry - Water to undertake the replacement, including consideration of the recommendations made by the NRC.

I would like to thank you for the NRC's considered review and I believe the experience gained by all in this plan review process has been invaluable.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Niall Blair MLC**  
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17 JUL 2018