

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

COCKBURN VALLEY WATER SOURCE SUBMISSION

29TH January 2021

On behalf of the Cockburn Valley Water Users Association [REDACTED]

102 Cross Park Road

Nemingha NSW 2340

What changes do you feel are needed to the water sharing plan to improve outcomes?

Cockburn River

Access Rules

The Cockburn River has a cease to pump trigger relating to a volumetric estimate of the river flow. (Ref Point, Cockburn River Kootingal Gauge 419099). We would like this rule to remain in place.

This would enable the irrigators using the Cockburn River to have confidence in the future of their enterprise in determining buying further land, updating irrigation equipment and purchasing machinery etc..

Cockburn River Alluvium Source

Connection between the Peel and Cockburn water sources. Linking alluvium pumping rules to surface water pumping is not supported. The Cockburn alluvium would be more aligned to Peel Alluvium rules rather than surface water rules.

Environmental Outcomes

Both the Peel and Cockburn Rivers are impacted by noxious weeds, fallen and overgrown river oaks and giant reed obstructing and unnaturally changing the course of the rivers.

Whilst funding grants are available through organisations like Land Care to improve the outcomes and condition of the rivers, the process to apply for funding is too overly rigorous, time consuming and extremely unfriendly for individual farmers and irrigators.

Sometimes the policies and rules of other organisations (for example Fisheries) prohibit our ability to clean up and diversify the river streams and banks in a way which would be seen as environmentally responsible.

Our last submission to the NRC was sent on 23/08/2019 responding to all headings and I refer you to that submission for more detail on the other headings.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cockburn Valley Water Users Association Inc