



V21/1320#43

Bryce Wilde
Executive Director
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Wilde

Audit of the implementation of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Gwydir Valley Floodplain 2016

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2021 regarding the Natural Resources Commission's audit report of the implementation of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Gwydir Valley Floodplain 2016 (Gwydir FMP). I apologise for the delay in my response.

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) notes the Natural Resources Commission's finding and that many of the provisions of the plans are being implemented.

The Gwydir FMP audit report contains no recommendations for NRAR. However, we note the report contains several suggested actions for NRAR. An update on each of these actions is provided below.

In relation to suggested action 2.1.2, NRAR will link its licensing and approvals assessment processes to relevant guidance once this guidance is provided by DPIE-Water. NRAR also welcomes the suggested action for DPIE Water to provide technical expertise to NRAR to support assessment of the impacts of flood work applications.

In relation to suggested action 2.2, NRAR would be pleased to provide relevant information for applications determined under Part 8 of the *Water Act 1912*, upon request by WaterNSW.

In relation to suggested action 3.1, NRAR currently reports all enforcement actions on our Public Register available on our website at <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nrar>. NRAR is looking at how it might improve reporting on compliance activities relating to declared floodplains.

For suggested action 3.2, the NRC should note that NRAR has published its Regulatory Priorities for 2021/22, and that this includes an enduring priority related to unauthorised floodplain structures. NRAR is delivering a Floodplains Compliance Program which will run to June 2023 to address this priority. Under this program, NRAR will initially focus on the regulated valleys where there are floodplain management plans in place, these being the Border-Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi, Macquarie, and Barwon-Darling valleys.

I look forward to continuing to work with the NRC to champion improvements to NSW's water management framework.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gilbert
A/Chief Regulatory Officer
Natural Resources Access Regulator
23 December 2021