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Sent: Monday, 4 May 2020 4:08 PM
To: NRC
Subject: Water Sharing Plan - Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources - Submission - Shoalhaven City Council

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Please accept this submission to the Water Sharing Plan – Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Source. I note submissions closed on 27 April 2020, I apologise for the tardy response however would be pleased if the Commission would consider this submission on behalf of Shoalhaven City Council.

Shoalhaven City Council, through its Local Water Utility, Shoalhaven Water delivers potable water to nearly 50,000 properties throughout the Shoalhaven LGA.

The Water Sharing Plan, along with the Raw Water Supply Protocols has served (and continues to serve) Shoalhaven City well, however the recent drought and fire emergency situation experienced in Shoalhaven has highlighted a scenario not previously experienced, and does not appear to be covered in the Water Sharing Plan.

In early January 2020 Shoalhaven's water supply situation was:

- Shoalhaven was on Level 1 water restrictions, planning for Level 2 restrictions.
- The flow into Tallowa Dam, as measured at Fossickers Flat, was zero so no releases were being made from Tallowa Dam for Shoalhaven.
- Water was being released (under Level 1 water restrictions) from the Shoalhaven owned Danjera Dam into the Shoalhaven River for Shoalhaven usage.
- Danjera Dam had been drawn down to 40% of capacity.
- For environmental/ecological reasons Danjera Dam can only be drawn down to 30% of capacity.
- The Currowan fire was fast approaching the Danjera Dam wall so the decision was made by Shoalhaven Water to close the outlet valve. The reason for this was that it was unknown how long Shoalhaven Water staff would be restricted from accessing the outlet valve and then running the risk of the dam dropping to below 30% capacity.

With the above situation Shoalhaven was essentially without a water source, strictly in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan and Protocol. While WaterNSW were very cooperative in this situation and released water from Tallowa Dam, Shoalhaven City Council would appreciate if emergency situations could be considered in the Water Sharing Plan, under Section 29. The following changes to Section 29 are suggested.

29 Releases for Shoalhaven City Council from Tallowa Dam in the Shoalhaven River Water Source

- (1) In the Shoalhaven River Water Source, Water NSW must release from Tallowa Dam the water requirements of Shoalhaven City Council
- (a) in accordance with the former Sydney Catchment Authority and Shoalhaven City Council Raw Water Supply Protocols signed on 5 January 2010 or as subsequently replaced or amended.
 - (b) In an emergency situation where Shoalhaven cannot source water from its backup supply at Danjera Dam.

Note.

The former Sydney Catchment Authority and Shoalhaven City Council Raw Water Supply Protocols were signed on 5 January 2010 and established the commercial and operational arrangements under which the Sydney Catchment

Authority supplies bulk raw water to the Shoalhaven City Council. Water NSW replaced the Sydney Catchment Authority on the commencement of the [Water NSW Act 2014](#).

(2) Releases of water under subclause (1) are not required to be made where:

- (a) the release requirements cannot be met due to an emergency situation and the holder of the water supply work approval notifies the Minister in writing within 7 days of becoming aware of the emergency,
- (b) the Minister is satisfied that the release requirements cannot be met due to water supply work capacity constraints or necessary maintenance, refurbishment or modification work that has the potential to temporarily affect the flow rate or behaviour of water for a period of more than 24 hours and has granted permission in writing,
- (c) the Minister requires an alternate release to be made due to an emergency situation or a maintenance activity and has notified this in writing, or
- (d) Tallowa Dam is spilling at a rate that equals or exceeds the release requirement under subclause (1).

Should you require further information or wish to discuss any of the above in more detail please do not hesitate to contact me. Again I apologise for the late submission.

Regards

Robert Horner

Acting Director

Shoalhaven Water - Shoalhaven City Council



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