
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 3 September 2023 2:37 PM

To: NRC <NRC@nrc.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: [REDACTED] NSW water sharing plans - Gwydir Regulated River Water Source
2016

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Our submission specifically relates to the Gwydir Water Sharing Plan.

Environmental outcomes

There has been a large increase in the volume of environmental water going down the Gingham and Gwydir.

The wetlands is always wet. It has actually grown into areas which were not ever core wetlands because there is an abundance of water that needs to go somewhere. This causes water to go off target onto third party land.

For environmental outcomes to be properly measured there needs to be permanent, working telemetry to prove what water levels will sustain a wetland. Telemetry will give hard facts. There also needs to be independent scientific measurement. There is currently no transparency as scientists are usually employees of other Government departments.

Social outcomes

The WSP talks about Landholder rights within their social objectives.

I would argue that Landholders have no voice at all in the WSP. We are not recognised stakeholders, even though we own the land that borders the carriage of water to wetlands, as well owning the land that actually neighbours the wetlands.

Our private land is often inundated by excess water that cannot stay within the channels because the volumes coming down are too great. There is no acknowledgement of landholders when this happens. You also need access to our land to measure the effectiveness of water deliveries, and still we are not acknowledged as Stakeholders in this process.

First Nations peoples are recognised stakeholders because they have ownership of land along the waterways, so why are we treated differently?

Economic Outcomes

Landholders are worse off because of the increases in deliveries of environmental water. Environmental Water Managers are knowingly sending too much water downstream, which goes overbank and inundates third party land. Water is knowingly going off target without consequence. Water is going off target at taxpayers expense.

It seems unconscionable that the Government would knowingly send a volume of water that exceeds channel capacity, and will inundate third party land, that will adversely affect landholders.

There is no accountability by Water Managers.

Cultural Outcomes

There has been an extraordinary investment in cultural outcomes by way of handing ownership of National Parks and water allocations back to First Nations people.

In reality, it is difficult to measure the success of these outcomes yet.

Improvements

We do not believe the WSP is achieving its objectives in several areas.

The issues are simple

- There needs to be much greater accountability by the Environmental water Manager in the delivery of their environmental water.
- Landholders need to become recognised Stakeholders in the WSP.
- There should be no impact by delivery of environmental water on third party property without consequence or compensation.

