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The general consensus is that the document asks the appropriate questions and is generally fit for purpose (although most members felt many answers would be along the lines of "poorly" or "can / must do better".)

What is absent - and what is clearly way outside NRC's legislative and / or regulatory role - is the political dimension. Over many years we have observed NSW's almost total lack of political will to rein in FPH along with obfuscation, recalcitrance and stalling of real reform in its WSPs.

It would be a very pleasant change if Ministers and bureaucrats actually paid heed to the legislation and that there were real penalties for not following the hierarchy of water use as prescribed in the NSW WMAAct.

While acknowledging that Floodplain Landholders are not specifically excluded, we suggest that this group be included under S 2.5.2 Key Stakeholders. This would acknowledge that floodplain landholders and managers have a lot of 'skin in the game' and can be badly damaged, along with the environment, when poor decisions are made.

We are strong supporters of the work the NRC does and hold the view that the Commission does the best it possibly can with one arm tied behind its back. A member of our executive with legal expertise has undertaken to study the legislation and consider draft amendment/s that might give the NRC greater clout.

Please feel free to share these comments. There is nothing confidential in it and we consent to any part of it being made public.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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