



The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Rec'd 12/2/21

IM20/29082

Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte
Commissioner
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001


Dear Professor Durrant-Whyte

I would like to thank the Natural Resources Commission for its audit of the ten southern floodplain management plans in the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys.

I understand this is the first audit of management plans undertaken by the Commission. I understand that you have laid out the process for future audits in an Audit Framework and will be convening an interagency Audit Processes Stakeholder Group to inform future audit activities.

I note the findings of the audit which found that the provisions of the plans have not been given full effect to. I have separately become aware there is a lack of understanding about flaws within the ten Southern Floodplain Management Plans, which poses a question to government about the scope of Southern Floodplain Harvesting.

I have been informed that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is progressing work to undertake a review of these same plans under section 43 of the *Water Management Act 2000*. The review will build on the audit and consider whether the provisions of the plans remain adequate and appropriate for ensuring the effective implementation of the water management principles.

The outcomes of any review, along with the Commission's audit, and other supporting activities by DPIE will inform the next steps in relation to these management plans.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Peter Hyde, Director Inland Planning in DPIE. Peter can be reached via email at peter.hyde@dpie.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 0419 162 826.

Yours sincerely

02 FEB 2021


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