

**From:** Will Russell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** NRC  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bega and Brogo Water Sharing Plan Submission

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this submission to you on behalf of Jelgowry Pty Ltd, we are an irrigating dairy farm on the Brogo/Bega River below the junction with licenced access to the Bega and Brogo Regulated Rivers Water Source, including High Security, General Security and Supplementary, Stock and Domestic Licenses. We also have a license for the Bega River Estuary And Tributaries Water Source.

The issues we would like to raise for our business and livelihood are

1. In drier times when the flows of the rivers are low, the ability to deliver water to the end of the system where we are situated becomes unreliable. This seems to be accentuated when the Bega/Bemboka river ceases to have surface flows and the Brogo Dam releases aren't sufficient enough to supply our licenses. This problem stems from the fact that there is insufficient monitoring downstream of the junction, and in the lower reaches of both the Bega and Brogo rivers upstream of the junction. In the most recent water year this problem led to our dairy and two neighbouring dairies to be without water for irrigation for 10 days in late spring. This equates to tens of thousands of dollars of feed being lost. Which is compounded in a year where bought in feed is at a 10 year high and rainfall was virtually non-existent. The solution to this problem is not only more gauging stations along the lower parts of the system but also a coordinated approach to respond to the levels of flow coming down the Bega/Bemboka river at Kanoona to trigger an increase in releases from Brogo Dam.
2. The shutdown of Brogo Dam to irrigation in January 2020 was poorly executed. We agree that a shutdown was needed at the time for town water security but the execution wasted water. There needs to be a staged shutdown over three days to use up the water that is already in the system. All irrigators were ordered to shut down at the same time when Brogo Dam was still releasing high flows (60ML). This meant there was a surge in water coming down the river which couldn't be extracted and would blow out the licenced Jellat Barrage which was holding stock water for the lower reaches of the river. This equates to in excess of 100ML potentially being lost that could have been utilised for township or stock and domestic water.

Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission.

Regards,  
Will and Rob Russell  
Jelgowry Pty Ltd