



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

RECEIVED

25 FEB 2021

BN20/3888

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

Dear Professor Durrant-Whyte

I would like to thank the NRC for its thorough review of the water sharing plans for the *Coffs Harbour Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*, the *Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*, the *Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*, the *Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources 2009* and the *Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*.

I understand the Peel was particularly complex as it covers four different types of water sources (regulated and unregulated rivers, alluvial and fractured rock groundwater), is affected by the ongoing drought and the added complication of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment reviewing the plan as part of the development of the water resource plan, at the same time.

I have approved the extension of the water sharing plans for the Central Coast, Lower North Coast, Hunter and Coffs Harbour areas for up to two years to allow the Department to consider the NRC recommendations and undertake consultation. The consultation will enable communities and stakeholders to consider any proposed changes and provide feedback.

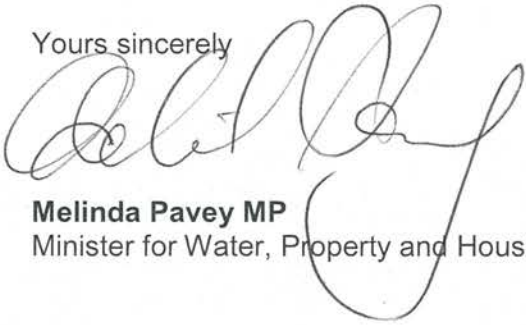
For the Peel, I have approved the amendment and extension of this water sharing plan. The Regulated water source remains in the amended and extended *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2010*. This plan will be remade when the Commonwealth signals the Namoi water resource plan will be accredited.

The Peel groundwater and unregulated water sources are now in the Water Sharing Plans for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2012, the Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 and the NSW Murray Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Sources 2020.

The four recommendations of the Peel review which you considered to be a priority by 1 July 2020 have been actioned in the water sharing plan rules where appropriate, or noted for consideration in the remake of the unregulated river plans by 2023 and the Department's ongoing work program. The Department will consider the remaining Commission's review recommendations for the Peel Valley over the next two years. If further changes are required for the water sharing plans, consultation on the changes will occur.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Anna Bailey, Director Coastal and Groundwater Planning, at [anna.bailey@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anna.bailey@dpie.nsw.gov.au) or Mr Peter Hyde, Director Inland Planning at [peter.hyde@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:peter.hyde@dpie.nsw.gov.au), in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melinda Pavey', written in a cursive style.

**Melinda Pavey MP**  
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

22 FEB 2021

---