From: Marina Hollands

Sent: Friday, 17 April 2020 2:25 PM

To: NRC

Subject: Comments - Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water

Sources

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To the Natural Resources Commission

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Water Sharing Plan for the greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources 2011.

I offer the following comments:

Objective 10A – The objective of this plan is to provide for the water supply for Sydney, the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains. By being specific in this statement you are missing a number of users within the area that are vital for implementing actions. This includes Goulburn and Marulan Residents and water users as well as Lithgow and Oberon. While these are small towns/cities comparatively to the larger areas listed, they are critical residents actually located within the catchment in question.

Clauses 39 (3) and (4) – these clauses have been in the document since commencement. GMC tried to implement this program at the end of the drought in around 2012 seeking help from the agency at the time responsible to implement the required work. Unfortunately due to staff leave at the time, this was not a priority of the agency. Councils do not have the expertise or resources to complete this work in house and this clause should be changed to an investigation be completed by the relevant stage agency. This work should be funded by the community that would benefit from this work (ie the metropolitan areas listed currently in Objective 10A) and this work should be completed by appropriately experienced/qualified people. The result of the completion of this work should also be considered. Inland cities have supply issues, and the results from this work may make impact schemes in that they are no longer considered secure under DPIE requirements. This may then require upgrades to schemes that are costly for this inland Council's. A whole of government approach is required for this clause.

Also, Goulburn Mulwaree Shire Council should be referred to as Goulburn Mulwaree Council.

I understand significant work has been completed under this plan and while only limited work has been completed in the Upper Wollondilly Section, where Goulburn Mulwaree Council's storages are located, this will be a matter of time and the appropriate resources need to be provided to complete the necessary investigation works and then any upgrade works that may be required from the future implementation of environmental releases.

Happy to discuss further.

Regards

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