

7 January 2025

- Replenishment flows – these flows are critical for the Marra Creek system. Outside of large flood events, they are the only flows the system receives. While they are in place for basic landholder rights and stock/domestic purposes, they improve the overall condition of the creek and provide environmental benefit (i.e. keep the creek healthy). Noting that the replenishment flow requirement for the Marra Creek is in a different water sharing plan (the Macquarie Regulated), this provision needs to be protected and enhanced if possible. My observation is that WaterNSW often run the replenishment flow down the system very quickly to top up stock and domestic using as little water as possible. Ensuring the full 15,000 ML is delivered each year, and sent down the system at a time that increases benefit to Marra Creek (perhaps using some sort of trigger), would improve overall outcomes.
- Additional flows for the Marra – we are eager to see additional flows down the Marra – noting that, outside of large floods, the creek pretty much only receives flows through replenishment flows given the operation of the system. Specific additional environmental flows for the Marra would be welcomed, as would partnership with environmental water holders for watering to improve conditions of the Marra Creek. Ensuring that the rules in the Macquarie Unregulated water sharing plan (and any other related plan) support environmental watering down the Marra system will be important.
- Requirement for the Minister to review Marra's rules – the requirement in the draft plan for the NSW Minister to review the flows required to support connectivity, the Marra Creek and its ecosystems is important. This will allow for consideration of the issues that are very important in the Marra Creek (e.g. does the creek receive the right amount of water at the right times to ensure that its health is improved and natural flows move through the creek as far as possible). Creeks like the Marra have been overlooked in comparison to other parts of the Macquarie system, and have largely been viewed by operators as delivery systems for stock and domestic water without consideration of the actual flows required to sustain the systems. The required review of the flow requirements for Marra Creek will be welcomed.
- An opportunity to meet with water planners – I would welcome an opportunity to meet with the water planners reviewing the plan to discuss our submission and provide further information on Marra Creek and its flows.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]