

Quambone Pastoral Co. Pty Ltd



Natural Resources Commission

Email: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: SUBMISSION FOR THE NRC REVIEW OF THE WSP FOR THE
MACQUARIE AND CUDGEGONG REGULATED RIVERS WATER
SOURCE 2016**

I would like to provide comment to the NRC in regard to the WSP for the Macquarie Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016, specifically to what effects us directly. We live at Quambone and own grazing country on the eastern side of the Macquarie Marshes Floodplain.

Review Question - To what extent do you think the plan has contributed to environmental outcomes, and what changes are needed to the WSP to improve environmental outcomes?

Little. We support the 160,000mg/l Macquarie environmental water allowance but note that it is not as effective as it could be with the lack of connectivity rules and end of system flow targets. The WSP does not protect, enhance and restore the water source, and the new floodplain harvesting management rules are grossly ineffective, still allowing unlimited extraction.

We strongly support the work of the Environmental Flows Reference Group (EWAG), and this should be made official within the WSP.

Connectivity should not only be longitudinal, achieving lateral connectivity is equally as important, but this is not happening as a result of the lack of connectivity rules.

The LTAAEL needs to be protecting the environment, it is not at the moment. The drought of record needs to be updated.

All EWA should remain EWA throughout the basin, not socialised back into the consumptive pool once it enters Burrendong Dam.

Review Question - To what extent do you think the plan has contributed to social outcomes and what changes are needed to the WSP to improve social outcomes?

Negatively. The drought of record has not been updated. This is ridiculous considering how much the climate has changed over the last two decades.

We had no stock and domestic water in 2019/2020. There should be at least a three year drought reserve in Burrendong Dam to allow for BLR.

The DOR needs to be updated.

Review Question - To what extent do you think the plan has contributed to economic outcomes and what changes are needed to the WSP to improve economic outcomes?

The WSP has to prioritise environment needs before economic needs. This is not happening.

We completely oppose the increasing of the full supply level of Burrendong Dam into the flood mitigation zone. This would shorten natural flood events, meaning less bird breeding events. The environment should not be carrying all the risk, this is contrary to the principles of the Water Management Act.

Floodplain Harvesting management rules are just another example of how the WSP is prioritising economic outcomes to the detriment of the environment. The river should never have to owe anyone because of a 500% carryover rule. The trading of FPH entitlements should also not be allowed.

Floodplain Harvesting should be restricted whenever supplementary is restricted.

The gross transfer of wealth upstream to the detriment of the environment and communities downstream beggars belief.

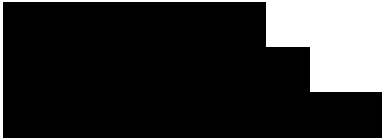
Review Question - Cultural outcomes and changes to improve cultural outcomes?

Little improvement in cultural outcomes.

New WSP should observe dual naming - Macquarie Wambuul River

Traditional owners should be granted their Closing the Gap entitlements plus Cultural Water.

Yours Faithfully

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