



Premier of New South Wales
Australia

10 OCT 2006

Dr John Williams
Commissioner
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 4206
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Williams,

Pursuant to section 13 of the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003*, I request that you carry out a review in relation to elements of the scientific basis of the Lower Lachlan Groundwater Sharing Plan. The terms of reference are to:

1. assess the scientific basis for current estimated average annual recharge for the lower Lachlan Groundwater Source;
2. assess the Lachlan surface water flow requirements to provide for the average annual recharge for the lower Lachlan Groundwater Source;
3. assess the scientific basis and rationale for the exclusion of recharge estimates west of the Cobb Highway (previously Zone 2); and
4. assess the scientific basis for the provision of water for groundwater dependent ecosystems for the lower Lachlan Groundwater Source and in particular the scientific basis for the 20% default provisions (24,000 ML) for groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Should you have any inquiries concerning the terms of reference or timing of the review, please contact Mr Paul Elton, The Cabinet Office on 9228 5493.

I appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

John Watkins MP
Acting Premier