

The Hon Rose Jackson MLC
Minister for Water, Minister for Housing,
Minister for Homelessness
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth
Minister for the North Coast



Our Ref: MF24/1647
Your Refs: D24/2207 & D24/2218

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

By email: Hugh.Durrant-Whyte@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Professor Durrant-Whyte *Hugh*

Audit of the implementation of the Paterson regulated river water sharing plan

Thank you for your letter of 25 June 2024 about the completion of the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) audit of the Paterson regulated river water sharing plan. I would like to thank the NRC for its work on this important audit.

I note the audit found that while many of the provisions of the plans are being implemented, on balance the provisions of the plans have not been given full effect in accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000*.

I am advised by the Water Group of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW Water Group) that it is progressing work to address the audit recommendations and suggested actions. The outcomes of the NRC's audit, and other supporting activities by DCCEEW Water Group, will inform the next steps in relation to these management plans.

I note the Deputy Secretary, DCCEEW Water Group has provided you with a more detailed response addressing the audit findings. I am also advised that WaterNSW's response is under development.

I am keen for ongoing communication and engagement between the NRC and DCCEEW Water Group to occur and support ongoing meetings to discuss improvements in process and approach.

Should you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Giselle Howard Executive Director Water Planning in DCCEEW via email at giselle.howard@dpie.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 0411 250 805.

Yours sincerely

Thanks Hugh -
once again the
MPC playing an
important role, I
will instruct
agencies to
act on these
findings.
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Date: 26.7.24