

Submission to Lachlan Regional Water Strategy

Wyangala Dam Wall Raising.

There is an opportunity to gain widespread support. To do so requires a commitment that ALL Lachlan valley water remains in the Lachlan Valley. Any sharing of water with other valleys must be balanced with ZERO net loss. Timing must also be balanced (not supplying in drought and receiving in flood!).

There also needs to be a commitment that there will be no additional licences issued. If any potential water users want water they have to buy it from willing sellers.

In short to gain my support and that of the majority of Lachlan valley residents the additional capacity of Wyangala dam must be only for FLOOD MITIGATION and WATER SECURITY within the Lachlan catchment.

Infrastructure improvements.

I would support upgrades of the Ganowlia weir, Torriganny weir, and the construction of the proposed Whealbah weir.

These would enable WaterNSW to meet their target flows in the lower Lachlan, and reduce end of system losses.

Effluent Creeks.

When the current Wyangala dam was proposed, it was recognized that flows to the creeks would be seriously depleted. To gain the support from the members of these creek water trust members were offered an annual REPLENISHMENT FLOW. This was agreed to. THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.

The majority of landowners have reliable watering systems and do not want or need piped water. Many of the dams that are filled from the creeks will last for much more than a year, and there are backup systems during droughts.

Replenishment flows are not just for stock, domestic or the environment, they are for all of these.

Any changes will need the Lachlan Water Sharing Plan to be rewritten and then the Murray Darling Basin Authority to sign off. The MDBA have said that they will not sign off on any plans that reduce water to the environment. Therefore any plan to pipe the creeks and not run them should be abandoned.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a trustee on the Merrowie creek, he and his family are significant general security water holders, they have ground water entitlements, and own property on the Merrowie, Merrimajeel, Muggabah and Torriganny creeks. Their properties contain the internationally significant Booligal Wetlands. [REDACTED] is a regular contributor to the Environmental Water Advisory Group and also the River Operations Stakeholder Consultation Committee.

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