

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in response to the Draft Lachlan Regional Water Strategy.

We are farmers and graziers on a property [REDACTED] that adjoins the Lachlan River both above and below the Lake Cargelligo weir. As such our main service centre is Lake Cargelligo, and we rely on Lachlan River water for both irrigation and stock and domestic water supplies.

The economy of Lake Cargelligo is reliant on agriculture, but there is also increasing interest and activity in tourism, and particularly tourism that is directly related to the lake and its wildlife. A great deal of work has been done by a local not-for-profit group (Cargelligo Wetlands and Lakes Council) as well as government agencies (including DPIE) regarding auditing the lake environment. It is difficult to see how dividing the lake into cells and by-passing Sheet of Water would have a positive impact on the lake, the town and the district.

A similar situation exists for creeks such as Booberoi. Piping these creeks would destroy the riverine environment that makes them unique.

The changes to water entitlements that occurred in the late 1990s resulted in a separation of land and water titles, and has allowed investors to become involved in water trading and ownership in our catchment and in other catchments of the Murray-Darling Basin. In general this has meant that water pricing has risen. We would encourage caution in any future changes to water entitlements in the Lachlan.

At catchment level, if raising the wall of Wyangala Dam is cost-effective and ensures water reliability for the Lachlan in the future it may be worth pursuing, but not if there are negative consequences for downstream users, or if the underlying reason for increasing the size of the dam wall is to benefit the growth of mines and towns such as Orange.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]