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[REDACTED]
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Sydney NSW 2000
Via email
[REDACTED]



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RE: Macquarie – Castlereagh Draft Regional Water Strategy

Thank you for [REDACTED] regarding our feedback for the Macquarie – Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy (MC-RWS).

In general, our view is that MC-RWS needs to focus on using water more effectively and efficiently into the future. This needs to include more efficient operations to minimize losses, more effective use of water within the system and look at projects that may increase reliability of the system for all users.

As discussed [REDACTED] our comments are outlined below;

1. MC-RWS positioning in relation to other socio-economic strategies

Whilst we support the preparation of the MC-RWS, we believe that it needs to take into consideration the broader social and economic factors of the region to be effective.

In the community sessions held, it is quite clear that there are a number of competing interests when it comes to future programs and works that address the many groups who have an interest or need for water, be it commercial, environmental or critical needs.

To effectively divide the limited resource available without social or economic harm, the strategy must consider its impact on the broader economic and social interests which have not been addressed in this strategy document. We would like to see this strategy expanded to understand the impacts and benefits of water in these terms to allow more effective decision making as it relates to future programs and works.

2. Future condition modelling

Whilst we understand and appreciate the need for a range of modelling scenarios, including a “worst case”, our view is that the “worst case” modelling scenario as presented is not the most accurate to inform decision making on programs and projects moving forward. A more appropriate “most likely” scenario should be used to inform this process.



It is our view that all stakeholders need to find common ground and work together to appropriately determine the best use of the resource available. Using a “worst case” modelling scenario risks panicking stakeholders and making it hard to chart a path to a strategy that meets the needs of all stakeholders as best it can.

3. Recommended Projects

From the listed projects, we support the following projects being investigated further;

1. **Project 1:** A new mid system re-regulating weir on the Macquarie River;
2. **Project 7:** Reuse, recycling and stormwater projects (particularly as it relates to town water security);
3. **Project 11:** Increase Burrendong Dam’s Full Supply Level;
4. **Project 8:** Burrendong to Nyngan Pipeline;
5. **Project 9:** Pipeline from new mid-system weir at Gin Gin to Nyngan;
6. **Project 10:** Gunningbar Creek pipeline

Thank you for your time on the phone and allowing us to submit our commentary on the draft strategy. Please contact me if you need any further information or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Macquarie River Food and Fibre

Macquarie River Food and Fibre (MRFF) is an industry body representing water licence holders who are ground and surface water users in the Macquarie Valley Catchment. We represent and support over 500 water entitlement licence holders and their communities.

MRFF members are food and fibre producers contributing to the economic, social and environmental health of the Macquarie Valley.

