

# Regional Water Strategies Public Exhibition 2

## Submission Questionnaire



### Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy Challenges and shortlisted actions

The NSW Government is taking action to improve long-term water security for Macquarie-Castlereagh. The Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy sets out a shortlist of proposed actions to help deliver healthy and resilient water resources for a liveable and prosperous region.

#### Your voice is important

This is your opportunity to let us know which actions you support and think should be implemented to help set the region up for the future.

This questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete, and your response can remain anonymous if you wish (see question 7).

Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire, please email: [regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

You can also provide feedback via [our submission platform](#).

### 1. Your details

\* **Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?** (select one)

Yes  No  Choose not to answer

\* **Are you making this submission as an individual or as a representative of an organisation?** (select one)

Individual  Organisation

## 2. Organisation or business details

**If making this submission as a representative of an organisation, who do you represent?** (select one)

**Government** (select one)

- Commonwealth
  New South Wales
  State other
  Local
- Local Water Utility

**Peak representative organisation** (select one)

- Environment
  Industry
  Business group or business chamber
  Community

**Aboriginal organisation** (select one)

- Yes
  No

**Other** (select and provide details) \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

## 3. Regional water challenges

We have identified **five water challenges** that are most important to address in the Macquarie-Castlereagh region. More detail about each regional challenge is available in the Consultation Paper.

### 1 Reducing water supply risks for regional cities, towns and villages

Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo are large and growing regional cities in the Macquarie valley. These cities are expected to grow by 20–30% over the next 20 years. The water supplies for these cities also underpin the water security of surrounding smaller towns and communities during times of drought.

Even with recent investments in water security measures, Bathurst and Orange require further immediate investment over the next few years to ensure the security of their water supplies is maintained.

Groundwater is an important water source for towns in the region, being the primary source of supply for many towns and an important backup source for others. There is uncertainty about water security in severe drought for towns that use groundwater, especially from the alluvial groundwater systems.

Do you agree that these are the priority water challenges for the Macquarie-Castlereagh region that we need to focus on? (select one)

Yes  No

If no, please outline what you see as the priority water challenges in this region over the next 20 - 40 years?

URBANISATION

REGIONAL CITIES NOT ASSESSING WATER REQUIREMENTS.

ALL HOUSEHOLDS NEED TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO USE WATER WISELY.

DATA PRESENTED AT THE DUBBO MEETING DID NOT INCLUDE FIGURES FROM THE LAST 3 YEARS. HIGH RAINFALL AND MILD TEMPERATURES.

THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO ~~THE~~ CLIMATE MODELLING.

DOROTHY MCKELLAR WAS KNOWN TO PEN THE WORDS "A LAND OF DROUGHT AND FLOODING RAINS".

WE LIVE IN A LAND OF EXTREMES,  
THE CYCLE CONTINUES

### 4. Addressing the challenges

We have developed three regional priorities with actions under each. We want to know which of the actions you support.

The regional priorities are:

- 1 Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns
- 2 Reduce water security risks in the region's west
- 3 Supporting industry and community climate adaptation
- 4 Best use of existing water for the environment

#### Priority 1: Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- make better use of the available resources
- respond to the needs of a growing population
- respond to the risks associated with climate variability and change.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?	
1.1	Confirm the level of water security needed to support regional cities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.2	Establish a governance framework to coordinate actions under Priority 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.3	Develop guidelines for managing extreme events in the upper Macquarie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.4	Adopt a stronger focus on urban water conservation and efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.5	Invest in innovative water supply options	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.6	Plan for the best long-term augmentation solution for the upper Macquarie	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.7	Reduce uncertainty in groundwater security for the region's towns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
1.8	Support management of Oberon's town water quality issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

#### A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?

1.2.  
1.5  
1.6 ) These are general statements. I cannot make a yes or no decision without more information.

**Priority 2: Reduce water security risks for the Lower Macquarie**

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- deliver water more efficiently to high priority needs and reduce town water security risks in the lower Macquarie region
- improve the drought resilience of industry in the lower Macquarie region.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
2.1	Investigate an additional off-river storage at Nyngan	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Create water savings through changed operation of regulated effluent creeks	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Continue to investigate regional water security solutions for the lower Macquarie	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon-Darling on a multi-valley scale	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?**

2.1 - Water WASTED THROUGH EVAPORATION .  
 2.2 . THIS WOULD HAVE A MASSIVE IMPACT ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSET THAT IS SIMILAR IN SIZE TO THE MACQUARIE MARSHES .  
 I AM SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE HAVING SEEN THE IMPACT OF A CREEK DYING DUE TO WATER DIVERSION . MAGNIFICENT OLD GUMS AND BOX TREES DEAD . THE RIVERINE ENVIRONMENT , NATIVE ANIMALS , BIRDS AND FISH WILL GO . WHERE WILL THE NATIVE WATER RATS GO ? WILL THE DEPARTMENT RELOCATE THE 1000'S OF ANIMALS & BIRDS AT RISK ?  
 THERE HAS BEEN NO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS , NO SURVEYS CARRIED OUT TO ASSESS THE POTENTIAL HARM OF THIS ACTION .

**Priority 3: Support industry climate adaptation**

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- strengthen the resilience of the regional economy, including existing businesses, industries and communities, and their adaptation to a drier, more severe future climate.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?	
3.1	Invest in continuous improvement to surface and groundwater modelling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.2	Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.3	Support adoption of on-farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.4	Undertake research to inform reviews of groundwater extraction and condition limits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.5	Develop ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.6	Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.7	Support the development of new water related Aboriginal business opportunities in the Macquarie-Castlereagh region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.8	Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support sustainable economic diversification	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3.9	Improve public access to the Macquarie Marshes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?**

3.3  
3.8 ) To make an informed answer I need more information.

**Priority 4: Best use of existing water for the environment**

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- limit or remove pressures and impacts related to water infrastructure
- enable water for the environment to be delivered to its best effect during wet and dry periods
- build knowledge of the region's water dependent ecosystems and assets, and the impacts of climate change on their health and resilience
- improve water resource health through better land management.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
4.1	Modify or remove barriers to delivering water for the environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.2	Reinstate natural channel profiles in selected streams in the southern Macquarie Marshes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.3	Mitigate impacts to fish communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.4	Remediate unapproved floodplain structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.5	Provide clarity and certainty for environmental needs during drought operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.6	Assess gaps in the flow regime and identify cooperative actions to improve ecological outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.7	Fully implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.8	Identify regionally significant riparian, wetland and floodplain areas to protect or rehabilitate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?**

4.1. DRAINING THE CROOKED, DUCK & GUNNINGBAR CREEKS WILL PUT A BARRIER TO WATER DELIVERY.

4.8 ABSOLUTELY - THE COMBINED CREEK SYSTEM OF THE CROOKED, DUCK & GUNNINGBAR CREEKS ARE CONSIDERED AN EXTENSION OF THE MACQUARIE MARSHES, AN ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT SYSTEM. THIS CREEK SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE IDENTIFIED AS A SIGNIFICANT RIPARIAN, WETLAND & FLOODPLAIN AREA TO PROTECT.

## 5. Other comments

A) Should any proposed actions in this Consultation Paper not be shortlisted and why?

ACTION 2:2 WOULD BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
DISASTER FOR RIPARIAN, WETLAND & FLOODPLAIN  
AREAS OF THESE REGULATED EFFLUENT CREEKS.  
THE RESULTS - DESTRUCTION OF THE FLORA &  
FAUNA, i.e. SWAMP WALLABIES, NATIVE WATER RATS,  
CCHIDNAS, TURTLES, MICROBATS, WATER BIRDS -  
NANKEN RUCKERY - I COULD GO ON ->!  
THERE HAS BEEN NO GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION  
SURVEYS OR ASSESSMENTS OF THIS AREA.

B) Should any other options in Attachment 1 of the Consultation Paper be shortlisted and why?

COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF  
REGIONAL CITIES TO LAP EXPANSION TO  
SUIT WATER AVAILABILITY  
AREAS OF NEW HOUSING - SHOULD HAVE WATER  
RESTRICTION COVENANTS. RECYCLING, WATER  
ALLOCATIONS, WATER SAVING, RESTRICTIONS,  
DROUGHT RESISTANT GARDENS.

## 6. Implementation of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy

An Implementation Plan will be included in the final Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy.

A) Which actions should be implemented first and why?

REGIONAL CITIES ASSESS WATER SECURITY  
LEVELS.  
ADOPT STRONGER FOCUS ON URBAN  
WATER CONSERVATION.



### Making your submission public

To promote transparency and open government, we intend to make all submissions publicly available on our website, or in reports. Your name or your organisation's name may appear in these reports with your feedback attributed.

**If you would like your submission and/or feedback to be kept confidential, please let us know when making your submission.**

If you request that your submission is to be kept confidential, it will not be published on our website or included in any relevant reports; however, it will still be subject to the *Government Information Public Access Act 2009*.

Your submission will be stored securely, consistent with the department's Records Management Policy and you have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information held by the department.

Further details can be found in our privacy statement available on our website.  
[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy)

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### 7. Information on confidentiality and privacy \*

I give permission for my submission to be publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.

Yes  No

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.

Yes  No

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### 8. Would you like to be kept updated on progress on the development and implementation of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide your details below.

### 9. How did you hear about the Public Exhibition of this strategy?

We are interested to know how you heard about the opportunity to make a submission. Please indicate the communication methods below:

- Newspaper
- Radio
- Department of Planning and Environment website
- Direct email
- Social media
- Have your say NSW Government website
- Communication from peak body
- Word of mouth
- Other (select and provide details) Found out the day before  
Poorly advertised.

### 10. Additional Information

If you would like to provide any supporting documents to help us understand your feedback, please email these from the same email you provided in this form or attach supporting documents to this form if you are returning your submission by mail.

All submissions on the draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy will be reviewed following the public exhibition period.

**Please email your completed submission and any supporting documents to:**

[regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Or post to:**

Regional Water Strategies  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

**Submissions close Friday 18 November 2022, 11.59pm**

Further details on all regional water strategies can be found on our website  
[www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/regional-water-strategies](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/regional-water-strategies)



Thank you for your submission.