

Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy, [REDACTED]
Division of Water NSW,
The Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment,
NSW Government.

I wish to respond to the 'Draft Regional Water Strategy' . I am [REDACTED], of Oakhurst, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] North Star, NSW, 2408 . I live on the MacIntyre floodplain.

I note mention of 'a liveable and prosperous Border Rivers region ' as a priority.

Damming of rivers can and does take water access away from quite a few residents on the flood plain. Stock and domestic access and flooding of the environment is significant and necessary. A right that comes with the purchase of land and too often taken away and gifted to others on the river.

In the extension to the capacity of the Pindari Dam in the early 1990s' , the E.I.S. gave no consideration to down stream losses for stock and domestic and floodplain environment, especially from the small to medium floods, [the large floods can and do go almost anywhere], no consideration to those off the river on effluent streams.

As stated in the findings of the ' Whalan Creek Applicants Commission of Inquiry' under Sir Laurence Street conducted in 1993 to 1996, the Whalan creek has lost up to 60% of outflows out of the MacIntyre River. That is a significant loss to the environment and to grazing landholders stock and domestic water access.

It is imperative that authorities considering taking of any further rights should carefully calculate the impacts to riparian landholders and, if necessary, remedial action taken . The possible Mole R dam or further extension to Pindari Dam capacity will have further extensive impacts to some , in gifting stored water to others on the river. Is that fair and reasonable? There is a lot already taken.

The Boomi River , mostly an effluent of the MacIntyre River had dedicated reserved water in Pindari Dam originally in two grants of large volumes to recognise losses. What about others?

Flood plain harvesting , which the Dept. is presently dealing with, has similar issues of concern. The Morella Water course , with Pungboulal and Boobera lagoons along it ,are suffering significant losses of inflows . Pungboulal lagoon went dry in 2011/12 for the first time , so local 1st Australian peoples told me. Why ? It is similar to Boobera lagoon , both being 8 ½ meters deep when full. They are iconic wetland areas , often with so much wildlife .

A number of times this Strategy report mentions these significant areas.