

GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER SUBMISSION TO DRAFT MAY 2002 Murrumbidgee Draft 2022 RWS Regional Water Strategy.

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Griffith is the Regional Capital of Western Riverina and our region proudly boasts two of the most successful, productive, deliverable and sustainable Irrigation areas being Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area & Coleambally Irrigation areas in the world.

The modeling used to assess start of Season General Security Allocation has become fundamentally flawed and in this draft RWS it remains lacking ambition, accuracy and undermines production, confidence, creates inflationary pressure on water input prices.

USING the 2nd worst inflow drought sequence event as the underlying model almost always shorts the start of Season allocation projection's.

This Doomsday forecasting has proven to undermine General security Cropping and unfortunately push up water prices. (which you are on record in stating that you do not want to distort the water market)

FOR decades, the previous modelling using long term averages for Season start allocations created better outcomes for all.

WE strongly recommend a return to the Long Term Average modeling and adaptive assessment in all ongoing allocations announcements.

BURRINJUCK DAM; the around 110 year old Dam wall is overdue for upgrade and with Climate Changes predicted shorter, sharper and more radical weather patterns a significant increase in capacity would be a great initiative.

Federal Minister for Environment Sussan Ley has said to our Executive that they " fully support the increase in capacity of Burrinjuck dam & the money is on the table but NSW State is sitting on their hands."

IT is time NSW State begin work on this overdue upgrade and magnificent opportunity for all.

A direct benefit for our entire Nation's Economy, Community, Flood Mitigation, flow management, airspace & storage, environmental water and best of all more productive agriculture under increasing external pressures.

LAKE COOLAH: Griffith City Council, Leeton Council, Basin Communities Australia BCA, Griffith Business Chamber, Murrumbidgee Food & Fibre, MP Helen Dalton, numerous Ag & commodity groups and our General Community are united in the view that the Lake Coolah Mejum storage facility will create great benefits to all. EVEN the Murray Darling Basin authority agree that this project is a no brainer.

WE would like to see is this draft strategy the immediate implementation of a new feasibility study on this project.

Regards,

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'Representing the business community since 1953'