

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, 15 August 2022 2:50 PM

**To:** NSW Groundwater Strategy Mailbox <nsw.groundwaterstrategy@dpie.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** Draft Groundwater Strategy - Muswellbrook Council [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*The Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Local Government Area (LGA) is located approximately 120km northwest of Newcastle, in the Upper Hunter Region of NSW.*

*There are a number of operating coal mines in the MSC LGA, each having a permanent impact on water availability in the local catchment, and the Hunter River more generally. Each mine operation dismisses this issue by saying they hold sufficient water licences to cover this “loss of water”. But the loss is permanent, and if the water sharing regime needs to change in the broader catchment for societal, ecological, or climate change reasons, or to satisfy the requirements for emerging industries, the water loss due to mines place limitations on the ability to change the water sharing regime.*

*Action 2.2 of the Draft Groundwater Strategy aims to “support economic growth using groundwater....better planning will secure access to groundwater for industry, supporting regional development and economic growth”. Council staff hopes that by addressing the issue of limited water licencing due to mining within the MSC LGA, the Draft Groundwater Strategy will achieve its goal to support economic growth using groundwater.*

*Muswellbrook Shire Council staff appreciates the opportunity to make a submission and would be pleased to provide additional information if requested. Should you need to discuss the submission, please contact [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]*

[REDACTED]



**Muswellbrook Shire Council** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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