

NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water

Friday 18 November 2022

Submission
Lachlan Regional Water Strategy

Cadia District Protection Group (CDPG) is a community group of landowners, residents, and individuals in the upper Belubula River catchment (Lachlan River catchment) concerned about the environmental, social, and economic issues in our area.

Cadia District Protection Group (CDPG) welcome the opportunity to comment on developing the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy – for the entire Lachlan River catchment.

Cadia District Protection Group members have strong memories of the recent droughts and the impact by addition water demand from towns, agriculture/horticulture and mining industries in the local area. Resilience in the tradition farming practise carried out in the local area is challenged by climate variation and comprised by this additional demand. This is acknowledged in the Draft Regional Water Strategy documents.

Water management in the Belubula River Catchment must be improved in the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy.

CDPG would like to contribute the following comments/concerns for your consideration:

Water Security:

Water security would be greatly improved by a better pipeline connecting Wyangala Dam to the Central Tablelands Water distribution network.

(a) This would satisfy the future demand for towns, stock and domestic, horticulture and mining.

(b) This would lower the demand on local streamflows which would benefit the traditional farming practises of the area.

(c) It represents a better outcome:

for the environment – improving local stream ecology and riparian zones,
economically – no need for the proposed enlargement of Lake Rowlands or a pipeline connecting Lake Rowlands to Carcoar Dam, (ie Belubula Water Security Project)

socially – more acceptable to Belubula River community

(d) could be connected to Bathurst via a new pipeline using the new pipeline route for the proposed McPhillamys Gold Mine Project.

(e) available to Orange, Molong and Yeoval by an existing pipeline

(f) could be made available to the Parkes water distribution network by a minor connection adjustment.

(g) secure water quality by introducing better monitoring and accounting procedures for water contamination from current and future proposed mining activities. Leaching from the Cadia Valley Operation (Gold and Copper) site which could include dangerous copper content. The proposed McPhillamys Gold Mine, if approved, will permanently introduce numerous contaminants in the coal wastewater from Lithgow.

(h) could elevate or lower the need for Cadia Valley Operations to transfer about 9 ML/day (average – Orange City Council Annual Raw Water Report) of treated water

(i) The connection, CDPG’s opinion, would improve Cadia Valley Operation’s social licence to operate.

The Lachlan Regional Water Strategy must reflect the anticipated future reduction in local streamflows and groundwater levels. (refer to Regional Water Strategy documents and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] MDBA, Griffith River Reach Conference).

[REDACTED]

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Cadia District Protection Group inc