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

To whom it may concern,

Re: Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy Consultation- [REDACTED] - Supplementary Submission

The Central NSW Joint Organisation Board (CNSWJO) thank the Department of Primary Industry and Environment, Water (DPIE) for the opportunity to comment on the consultation draft of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy (RWS) and for extending the deadline for submissions to [REDACTED]

Subsequent to our initial submission dated [REDACTED], our member Councils have approached us with regard to a *Macquarie Valley Drought Relief Strategy* developed by WaterNSW. Where Councils have provided feedback directly to WaterNSW and noting that the CNSWJO has not seen a full copy of this Strategy, we are concerned to understand its recommendations and the implication of these on options in the Draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy.

Our members have advised that the Strategy has a similar scope to the Regional Water Strategy in providing the NSW Government with investment opportunities, both short term initiatives and longer-term project options that can be implemented to provide long-term water security in times of drought.

Further, it is understood that it is a supporting document to the Regional Water Strategy and includes recommendations to ensure towns and key industries do not fail due to lack of water. This goes to the heart of the collaborative work that the JO has been engaged in with DPIE Water for the development of the RWS and may have implications for our initial response. Without having seen it, it's hard to know.

The CNSWJO seeks to clarify the relationship and alignment of this strategy and its recommendations to those included in the Draft RWS specifically Option 4- a feasibility study to identify water security deficiencies, potential water sources, delivery mechanisms and preferred options for further development and Option 6- Inter-regional connections project investigation.

An added consideration is the relationship of this strategy as well as options 4 and 6 in the RWS to the NSW Government's intention for the development of Regional Town Water Strategies to be led by JOs. As detailed in our initial submission there is a need for collaboration and alignment of these tasks to avoid unnecessary duplication and costs to Governments, not to mention, a better outcome for our communities.

If you require further information or clarification on comments, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

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Central NSW Joint Organisation