

Submission re: Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy

I strongly support all options that improve First Nations capacity, engagement and employment in water management, and that recognise the significance of cultural knowledge and improve cultural outcomes. These include:

- Options 42 - 51: Recognition of cultural knowledge, water rights and interests, Secure flows for cultural sites, Aboriginal River Ranger program

I strongly support all options that reduce water consumption in towns and industry. More efficient use of water is critical to achieve sustainable communities into a future with less water. These include:

- Option 18: impacts of land use change
- Option 26: Reuse, recycle and stormwater harvesting
- Option 27: water efficiency opportunities – this option must include managing high evaporation rates from on farm storage.
- Option 30: review drought of record and allocation process in water sharing plan
- Option 38, 39: extend cap and pipe the bores program, manage Great Artesian Basin

I object to the following options that are counter to environmental outcomes:

- Option 2: raising Pindari Dam
- Option 3: raising Mungindi Weir

As noted in the draft strategy these will further regulate and alter the natural flow regime of rivers in the valley, impacting native species and ecosystems.

I strongly object to:

- Option 8: Inland diversions from the east. This option should not be a consideration and is untenable from an ecological perspective.