

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Subject: Draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy

Dear DPIE,

In Dubbo we are set to experience some of the worst consequences from Climate Change as anywhere in Australia (ANU Climate research reported in that Dubbo is one of 5 electorates to be the most severely effected with average temperatures by 2050 to increase to 4 degrees C. higher if emissions are not curtailed). This September, the bureau of Meteorology reported that the average temperature was 3.3 degrees C. higher in Dubbo.

It is more likely that the predictions in the draft strategy will become reality, rather than be worst case scenario, as the draft strategy implies.

Predictions are that rainfall will reduce by up to 12%, spring rainfall will decrease, and autumn rainfall will increase. If water management doesn't change, in 40 years inflows to Burrendong dam will decrease by 50% and Burrendong will be below 10% half of the time.

Drought conditions in Dubbo during the last 2 years saw residents experience the worst water restrictions ever. The dam held only 1% of water. Personally, I could not keep my 1 acre suburban garden alive and had to prioritise what I tried to keep alive. Even with good winter rain, our lawn is still infested with weeds. Two 40 yo gum trees died. The expense of cutting them down is high and replacement impossible. Personal water use was kept to such a minimum that we were only bathing and washing up from reused buckets of laundry water.

Dubbo Environment Group has campaigned in 2020 against unlicensed floodplain harvesting, the construction of new dams and weirs and the continued over-extraction of water from our rivers by agribusiness. The health of our rivers and wetlands is of the highest priority if we are to protect our environment from further irreparable degradation.

Thank you for considering our submission.

[REDACTED] (Dubbo Environment Group)