

From: [REDACTED]
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To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Border Rivers Water Strategy - Queensland Submission

[REDACTED]
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in regards to the Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy that was release for public exhibition and submission on 20 October 2020.

Following a review of the documents, it is noted that there are a number of projects listed in the long list of options that have potential implications for Queensland's water resource management. These include:

- * (1) Final business case for building a new dam on the Mole River
 - o The business case will: examine options for construction and operation of the dam, including: exploring the water sharing arrangements between NSW and Queensland under the 1946 NSW-Queensland Border Rivers Agreement and the 2008 Intergovernmental Agreement
 - o consider stakeholder views including feedback from communities and the Queensland Government.

- * (3) Raising Mungindi Weir
 - o consider cost and resource allocation arrangements between NSW and Queensland

- * (5) Improve cross-border management of flows at major breakout points
 - o Consideration would need to be given to:
 - ? quantification of the volume of water that could flow from NSW to Queensland to determine whether it is significant and warrants action
 - ? water sharing arrangements between NSW and Queensland under the 1946 NSW-Queensland Border Rivers Agreement and the 2008 Intergovernmental Agreement, and the role of the Border Rivers Commission
 - ? cost sharing arrangements between NSW and Queensland.

At Newinga, the Weir River and Macintyre River almost join. At certain high flow levels above 600 ML/day in the Macintyre River, water can flow into the lower Weir River. A high flow in the Weir River reverses this situation. Currently, at the Newinga Breakout, there is a weir structure with removable drop boards that are manually operated. The boards are placed to protect NSW regulated flows and environmental water during uncontrolled flow events.

There is concern that:

- * ineffective and inefficient operation of the Newinga Breakout structure allows

regulated river water from NSW to flow into Queensland

* bank erosion causes the Dingo Creek and Callendoon Creek mouth to widen, allowing more water to flow from NSW into Queensland.

Potential projects include:

* upgrading and automating the operation of the Newinga Breakout structure

* implementing improvement works at Dingo Creek and Callendoon Creek.

* (7) Intra- and inter-regional connections project investigation (Source: Tenterfeld Shire Council and Glen Innes Severn Council)

o Investigation of potential additional intra-regional pipeline connections in the east and north-east, and inter-regional pipeline connections such as to Stanthorpe in Queensland.

* (8) Inland diversions from the east

o Investigation of potential diversion of flows from the east of the Great Dividing Range or Queensland.

* (10) NSW Fish Passage Strategy

o These 10 priority weirs are proposed for remediation to facilitate fish access to an additional 660 km of the Macintyre and Dumaresq Rivers along the NSW-Queensland Border.

o Locations proposed are: Macintyre Blockbank A and Macintyre Blockbank B; Boomi Weir; Goondiwindi Weir; Boggabilla Weir; Toomelah Weir; Glenarbon Weir; Cunningham Weir; Bonshaw Weir; Holdfast Crossing.

* (23) Improve connectivity with downstream systems

o Potential options to improve connectivity between the Border Rivers region and the Barwon-Darling River include: working with Queensland to enable more water to flow into NSW by reviewing and protecting it from extraction downstream into NSW

* (25) Review of water markets in the Border Rivers region

o The review could investigate the complexity of inter-state trading, different carryover arrangements between NSW and Queensland, accounting for losses, trade timeliness, the ability to broaden the trading framework into unregulated

systems once metering has been implemented and real-time trading of supplementary allocation.

o The review could be aligned/coordinated with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Trade Working Group's review of inter-state trade arrangements between Queensland and NSW in the Border Rivers. The Authority is undertaking a quick audit of Tagged Water Trading arrangements to improve transparency and ensure a robust accounting process.

o Stakeholders have expressed, through the water resource planning process, a

desire for real time trading capability to facilitate efficient movement of water to

its highest value use within 'Event Trading' for supplementary water. The

onset of supplementary events in the Border Rivers region can happen over a very short period of time (hours in some cases), making real time event trading challenging.

- * (33) Training and information sharing program
 - o Providing information sessions on NSW and Queensland water market products, systems and processes, as well as on water trading rules between water sources within NSW to facilitate water moving to higher value uses that will support the regional economy.

- * (40) Support reforms to simplify and strengthen cross-border groundwater management
 - o This option would need to consider:
 - ? water sharing arrangements between NSW and Queensland under the NSW-Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008
 - ? stakeholder views including feedback from communities and the Queensland Government

I am seeking your assurance that your department will work closely with Queensland so that all of Queensland's concerns in relation to these projects can be considered and addressed.

Yours sincerely

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