

From: [Robyn & Ian Cush](#)
To: [State Water Strategy Mailbox](#)
Subject: Draft NSW Water Strategy
Date: [REDACTED]

Comment on NSW Water Strategy

I had the opportunity to listen to the presentation and have serious concerns.

1. Why is the Dept trying to do this at the same time as FPH and Ipart. It is bombarding the irrigators with expensive, non productive “rules” that are going to decimate the irrigation industry
2. Why not do one thing properly rather than stuff up everything.

During the whole presentation I did not hear “irrigation” mentioned once. Not a good look for a Dept that is supposed to give equal observance to the triple bottom line – environment, industry & community.

All presentations keep saying the “modelling” says there must be more water for the environment, and now we have a focus on Aboriginals telling us how we should be using the water.

It has also been suggested that the supposed overpumping in the Gwydir that has brought about disgrace in the media, and a massive fine by way of water taken back, is not actually overpumping at all, it is a model saying it could happen.

I would like to know if all this modelling has calculated how many irrigators are going to be sent out of business because they will be unviable without the FPH they have had in the past. Has it been modelled how our local communities will lose out yet again because of Dept interference. There is never any compensation for taking back water that we have used for 40 years. Irrigators have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure, machinery etc to properly utilise the FPH they have on their properties. How do you pay the interest on this. if it is now to be taken away.

It is apparent to a lot of people that the “environment” is not well served by continually having water swamping it. Nor is the economic state of the country helped by having the Darling used as a conduit to pump water out to sea in SA.

All irrigators want is a fair go. It can not be underestimated the effect of the continual battle with the Dept is having on the mental health of the families relying on the Dept to do the right thing. The activists who regularly demonise our industry on social media are making life hardly worth living.

I hope you will try and understand the problems irrigators have with these issues, and question what is to be gained by eliminating irrigators.

Yours faithfully
Robyn Cush
Pechelba Pty Ltd
0428657607