



[Redacted]

AG | A0310010

[Redacted]

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

Via email: regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

SUBJECT: DRAFT MACQUARIE-CASTLEREAGH REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

Mid-Western Regional Council appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy (RSW).

Construction of Ulmarrah Dam, which was identified in the WaterNSW 20 Year Infrastructure Options Study Rural Valleys (June 2018) and has not progressed to the list of options in the draft Macquarie-Castlereagh RWS, is the preferred option and seen as a priority project for Mid-Western Regional Council and should be included in the list of options in the strategy.

Ulmarrah Dam is an important project to deliver water security throughout the upper and lower Macquarie. The potential to provide an additional 700GL storage (58% of Burrendong Dam capacity) at a cost less than identified future pipeline projects, drought proofs towns downstream of Burrendong Dam to the far west of NSW while also providing security for users along the Castlereagh by reducing the reliance on Windamere Dam and the need for bulk water transfers during future periods of drought.

The major centres of Orange and Bathurst, along with Central Tablelands Water stakeholders could also benefit in the future from the construction of Ulmarrah Dam as it provides additional water security at the site of the current Orange pipeline offtake which is located at the proposed dam site and was not accessible due to low flows during the most recent drought.

The identified site for the construction of Ulmarrah Dam is ideal due to the natural landscape. No households would be directly impacted at the site and the steep terrain means it is not ideal grazing country and not suited to cropping.

Mid-Western Regional Council requests further information about the reasons why the construction of Ulmarrah Dam did not proceed to the list of options and would like to see this project identified in the list of options when the final Macquarie-Castlereagh RSW is released.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact me on [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]