

From: nsw.waterstrategy@dpie.nsw.gov.au
To: [State Water Strategy Mailbox](#)
Subject: Your submission for the draft NSW Water Strategy
Date: [REDACTED]

Important information about this form

Information on confidentiality and privacy

I give permission for my submission to be made publicly available on the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website.: Yes

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.: No

Your details

Name: Paul Duncan
Contact phone number: 0404089602
Postcode: 2478
Email address: info@totalerosioncontrol.com.au

Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?: No

Are you an individual or representing an organisation?: Individual

Organisation or business details

Who do you represent?: Other

If you selected Government, please specify:

If you selected peak representative organisation, please specify:

If you selected

other, please specify: Erosion and Sediment control consultant

Draft vision–questions

Which aspects of water management are most important to you and your local community?: The management of stormwater and surface water plays a direct part in the increased amount of sedimentation and pollutants in our local waterways. The continued use of concrete/rock channels and swales is to the detriment of water quality. These applications can be replaced with reinforced vegetated systems, for example Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRM's) which allow us to vegetate areas once dominated by rock and concrete. The primary reason for using rock and concrete is to withstand high stresses and prevent erosion. TRM's are capable of providing the same protection but bring added benefits including: reduced velocities, ground water recharge, pollutant removal, creation of habitat, sediment capture and less cost. To illustrate their capability, TRM's can be used in place of rock in excess of 500mm diameter. This application has been successfully used Australia wide to replace conventional hard engineered designs, however it still remains a rarely used application in designs.

Do you support the proposed vision for the draft NSW Water Strategy?:

Yes

Please tell us more about your response.: The development of sustainable and functional management systems to ensure the best water quality outcomes is essential for progress towards the outcomes identified in the plan. The adoption of vegetated drains has remarkable benefits. For example, a single drain 500m long in Albury NSW over 16 years has collected in excess of 2500m³ of sediment which otherwise would have flowed directly into the Murray River. This is a perfect example of what can be achieved by utilising more effective and efficient management strategies.

Draft objectives–questions

Which objectives are most important to you?: #1. protecting public health and safety #2. water sources, floodplains and ecosystems protected #3. cultural values respected and protected #4. orderly, fair and equitable sharing of water #5. liveable and vibrant towns and cities #6. contribute to a strong economy.

Do you have any comments on any of the proposed objectives?:

The first 5 objectives are essential to achieving the last objective. The flow on effect from working towards improvement with each objective has benefits for the entire community. Polluted and sediment laden water affects everyone.

Draft guiding principles–questions

Which principles are most important to you?: 1. systems thinking to optimise outcomes 2. healthy environments sustain social and economic outcome 3. water is a limited (although recyclable) resource 4. forward thinking to build preparedness and resilience 5. data-enabled planning and decision-making 6. giving effect to Aboriginal rights and access to water. 7. transparency and accountability to engender community trust

Do you have any comments on any of the guiding

Utilising current available technology to drive planning and management for sustainable management of water is vital for achieving outcomes and principles.

principles?:

Opportunities, challenges and actions for improved state-wide water management

Do you have any comments on the seven strategic priorities identified?:

There is a finite amount of water available and so any community's activity which requires the use of water needs to be in line with their natural supply. Diverting water to accommodate short falls, inevitably creates short falls somewhere else. On land practices need to be matched to the availability of water for the region. Inevitably some communities will need to re think the type of activities and industries their area is best suited to.

Do you have any comments on any of the proposed actions identified?:

Are there any additional opportunities, risks and challenges that should be considered in the draft strategy?:

In light of the recent fires across the state, it is obvious that post-fire management is not currently adequate. Teams need to be prepared in advance to move into fire damaged areas to mitigate erosion and subsequent pollution of our waterways.

What actions should be prioritised for immediate implementation and how should they be implemented?:

*Set a specific criteria in design of stormwater systems that is uncompromising for the most effective management of water. *Engineers and designers intent on continuing to produce hard engineered solution must be able to demonstrate why they have chosen this over a soft engineered approach. *Ignorance of current and available technologies is not a satisfactory excuse.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments on the draft NSW Water Strategy?:

Mandating the most environmentally effective practices is necessary for universal action. The days of picking and choosing are over. Each decision now needs to be supported by the objective of improvement. This will certainly require some re education away from outdated and inefficient practices with little or no benefit to the environment or water quality outcomes.

Referral

How did you hear about the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft NSW Water Strategy?:

Newspaper

If other, please specify: