

Regional Water Strategies Public Exhibition 2

Submission Questionnaire



Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy Challenges and shortlisted actions

The NSW Government is taking action to improve long-term water security for Macquarie-Castlereagh. The Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy sets out a shortlist of proposed actions to help deliver healthy and resilient water resources for a liveable and prosperous region.

Your voice is important

This is your opportunity to let us know which actions you support and think should be implemented to help set the region up for the future.

This questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete, and your response can remain anonymous if you wish (see question 7).

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire, please email: regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au

You can also provide feedback via [our submission platform](#).

1. Your details

* Email address: SPC.eirio@gmail.com

* Name: SIMON PATRICK CANT

* Address: "MUMBLEBONE"
WARREN 2824

* Contact phone number: 02 68 335377 / 0429 889649

* Do you identify as an Aboriginal person? (select one)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Choose not to answer

* Are you making this submission as an individual or as a representative of an organisation? (select one)

☒ Individual ☐ Organisation

2. Organisation or business details

If making this submission as a representative of an organisation, who do you represent? (select one)

Government (select one)

- ☐ Commonwealth ☐ New South Wales ☐ State other ☐ Local
☐ Local Water Utility

Peak representative organisation (select one)

- ☐ Environment ☐ Industry ☐ Business group or business chamber ☐ Community

Aboriginal organisation (select one)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ **Other** (select and provide details)

☐ N/A

3. Regional water challenges

We have identified **five water challenges** that are most important to address in the Macquarie-Castlereagh region. More detail about each regional challenge is available in the Consultation Paper.

1 Reducing water supply risks for regional cities, towns and villages

Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo are large and growing regional cities in the Macquarie valley. These cities are expected to grow by 20–30% over the next 20 years. The water supplies for these cities also underpin the water security of surrounding smaller towns and communities during times of drought.

Even with recent investments in water security measures, Bathurst and Orange require further immediate investment over the next few years to ensure the security of their water supplies is maintained.

Groundwater is an important water source for towns in the region, being the primary source of supply for many towns and an important backup source for others. There is uncertainty about water security in severe drought for towns that use groundwater, especially from the alluvial groundwater systems.

Do you agree that these are the priority water challenges for the Macquarie-Castlereagh region that we need to focus on? (select one)

☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please outline what you see as the priority water challenges in this region over the next 20 - 40 years?

☒ I AGREE WITH THE PRIORITIES, BUT NOT ALL OF THE DETAILS.

4. Addressing the challenges

We have developed three regional priorities with actions under each. We want to know which of the actions you support.

The regional priorities are:

- 1 Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns
- 2 Reduce water security risks in the region's west
- 3 Supporting industry and community climate adaptation
- 4 Best use of existing water for the environment

Priority 1: Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- make better use of the available resources
- respond to the needs of a growing population
- respond to the risks associated with climate variability and change.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
1.1	Confirm the level of water security needed to support regional cities	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.2	Establish a governance framework to coordinate actions under Priority 1	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.3	Develop guidelines for managing extreme events in the upper Macquarie	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.4	Adopt a stronger focus on urban water conservation and efficiency	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.5	Invest in innovative water supply options	☐ Yes ☒ No
1.6	Plan for the best long-term augmentation solution for the upper Macquarie	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.7	Reduce uncertainty in groundwater security for the region's towns	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.8	Support management of Oberon's town water quality issues	☒ Yes ☐ No

A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?

Priority 2: Reduce water security risks for the Lower Macquarie

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- deliver water more efficiently to high priority needs and reduce town water security risks in the lower Macquarie region
- improve the drought resilience of industry in the lower Macquarie region.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
2.1	Investigate an additional off-river storage at Nyngan	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.2	Create water savings through changed operation of regulated effluent creeks	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.3	Continue to investigate regional water security solutions for the lower Macquarie	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.4	Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon-Darling on a multi-valley scale	☐ Yes ☐ No

A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?

2.2. "WATER SAVINGS" SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE, AS I FEEL IT IS A DECLARATION OF "TERRA NULLIUS" OVER THE PRECIOUS EFFLUENT CREEKS OF THE MACQUARIE VALLEY. THESE CREEKS TEAM WITH LIFE AND SUPPORT THE MARSH ECOSYSTEM, AND MORE, IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. I HAVE LONG FELT THAT THE BOUNDARIES PLACED ON THE MACQUARIE MARSHES ARE SHORT SIGHTED, AND VERY EUROPEAN. THE SYSTEM IS FAR MORE INTRICATE AND ENTWINED THAN WE CAN COMPREHEND. THE CREEKS SUPPORT FRESH FEEDING GROUNDS AS THE WILDLIFE OF THE MARSHES SPILLS OUT ACROSS THE WIDER DELTA.

Priority 3: Support industry climate adaptation

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- strengthen the resilience of the regional economy, including existing businesses, industries and communities, and their adaptation to a drier, more severe future climate.

Proposed action	Do you support this action?
3.1 Invest in continuous improvement to surface and groundwater modelling	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.2 Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.3 Support adoption of on-farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.4 Undertake research to inform reviews of groundwater extraction and condition limits	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.5 Develop ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.6 Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.7 Support the development of new water related Aboriginal business opportunities in the Macquarie-Castlereagh region	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.8 Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support sustainable economic diversification	☒ Yes ☐ No
3.9 Improve public access to the Macquarie Marshes	☒ Yes ☐ No

A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?

Priority 4: Best use of existing water for the environment

The actions shortlisted under this priority aim to:

- limit or remove pressures and impacts related to water infrastructure
- enable water for the environment to be delivered to its best effect during wet and dry periods
- build knowledge of the region's water dependent ecosystems and assets, and the impacts of climate change on their health and resilience
- improve water resource health through better land management.

Proposed action		Do you support this action?
4.1	Modify or remove barriers to delivering water for the environment	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.2	Reinstate natural channel profiles in selected streams in the southern Macquarie Marshes	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.3	Mitigate impacts to fish communities	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.4	Remediate unapproved floodplain structures	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.5	Provide clarity and certainty for environmental needs during drought operations	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.6	Assess gaps in the flow regime and identify cooperative actions to improve ecological outcomes	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.7	Fully implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Program	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.8	Identify regionally significant riparian, wetland and floodplain areas to protect or rehabilitate	☒ Yes ☐ No

A) Do you have any comments on the proposed actions identified?

A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE HAS DEVELOPED DOWNSTREAM OF WARREN, ON THE MACQUARIE, ADJACENT TO THE BULLA BULLA ANNABRANCH. A LOGJAM HAS FORMED, CREATING A BARRIER THAT STRETCHES FROM BANK TO BANK, BED TO ABOVE WATER SURFACE, FOR 800m OF RIVER. UNLIKE NATIVE TIMBER, WILLOW FLOATS, INTERLOCKS, AND SNAGS OTHER DEBRIS. ADDITIONAL UPSTREAM MATERIAL IS SUCKED UNDER, WEDGING IN THE UNDERSIDE OF THE JAM, NOTHING REEMERGES DOWNSTREAM! THIS BARRIER FORCES WATER ALONG THE BANK, UNDERMINING IT AND CAUSING IT TO SLUMP INTO THE RIVER, FORMING ANOTHER BARRIER TO FISH, PARTICULARLY IN LOW FLOWS.

ACTION : ① URGENT ACTION REQUIRED TO OPEN UP RIVER,

② MODIFY LAWS THAT PROTECT WILLOW IN WATERCOURSES, CREATE LIABILITY FOR PERSONS WHO CUT WILLOW WITHOUT MULCHING!

5. Other comments

A) Should any proposed actions in this Consultation Paper not be shortlisted and why?

AS STATED, REMOVING WATER FROM STREAMS THAT ARE ABUNDANT WITH LIFE AND PROVIDE A REFUGE ACROSS EXTENSIVE FEEDING GROUNDS, TO TOP UP THE MARSHES IS NONSENSICAL. THE EFFLUENT CREEKS HAVE AN EXPONENTIAL VALUE FOR THE MARSH WILDLIFE. TO BE HONEST, 2.2 "CREATE WATER SAVINGS" IS AN OFFENSIVE PHRASE, AS WATER IS FAR MORE THAN A COMMODITY. IT IS LIFE. HOW CAN WE MAKE A "SAVING" BY ENDING LIFE?

B) Should any other options in Attachment 1 of the Consultation Paper be shortlisted and why?

6. Implementation of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy

An Implementation Plan will be included in the final Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy.

A) Which actions should be implemented first and why?

Making your submission public

To promote transparency and open government, we intend to make all submissions publicly available on our website, or in reports. Your name or your organisation's name may appear in these reports with your feedback attributed.

If you would like your submission and/or feedback to be kept confidential, please let us know when making your submission.

If you request that your submission is to be kept confidential, it will not be published on our website or included in any relevant reports; however, it will still be subject to the *Government Information Public Access Act 2009*.

Your submission will be stored securely, consistent with the department's Records Management Policy and you have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information held by the department.

Further details can be found in our privacy statement available on our website.
www.industry.nsw.gov.au/privacy

7. Information on confidentiality and privacy *

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

I would like my personal details to be kept confidential.

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Would you like to be kept updated on progress on the development and implementation of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide your details below.

* Email address: spc.eieio@gmail.com

* Name: Simon Patrick Cant

* Address: "MUMBLEBONE"

WARREN 2824

* Contact phone number: 02. 68 335 377 0429 889649

9. How did you hear about the Public Exhibition of this strategy?

We are interested to know how you heard about the opportunity to make a submission. Please indicate the communication methods below:

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio ☐ Department of Planning and Environment website
☐ Direct email ☐ Social media ☐ Have your say NSW Government website
☐ Communication from peak body ☒ Word of mouth
☐ Other (select and provide details) _____

10. Additional Information

If you would like to provide any supporting documents to help us understand your feedback, please email these from the same email you provided in this form or attach supporting documents to this form if you are returning your submission by mail.

All submissions on the draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy will be reviewed following the public exhibition period.

Please email your completed submission and any supporting documents to:

regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au

CLICK HERE TO EMAIL SUBMISSION

Or post to:

Regional Water Strategies
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

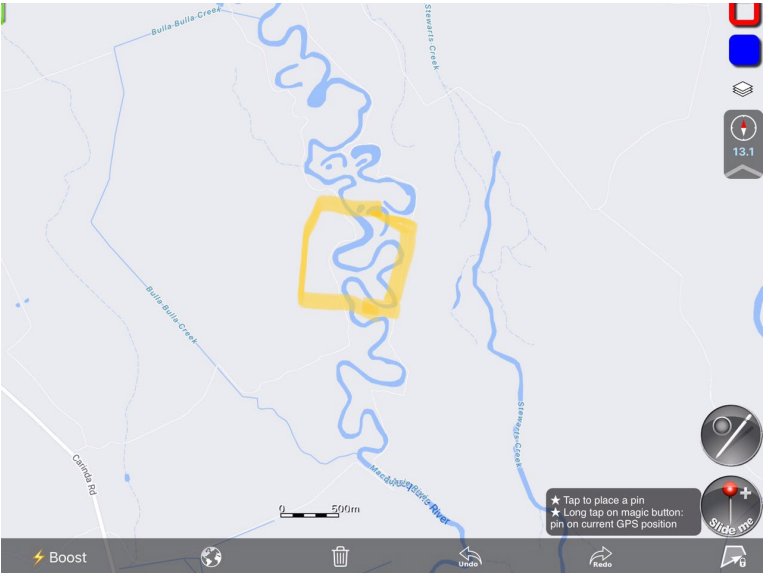
Submissions close Friday 18 November 2022, 11.59pm

Further details on all regional water strategies can be found on our website
www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/regional-water-strategies



Thank you for your submission.

From: [Simon Carr](#)
To: [Nick H. Rowland](#), [Water Distribution Division](#)
Subject: Regional Water Strategy: Simon Carr, Warren
Date: Friday, 18 November 2022 11:24:26 PM
Attachments: [Regional Water Strategy.pdf](#)







Above photos taken in 2019 . Macquarie just downstream of Bulla Bulla offlake. This is a baby compared to the current one. Flood conditions prevent access.
Top photo- map of Bulla Bulla, highlighting current logjam location. Once it has sufficiently damaged the banks, it moves downstream to repeat the process.
I'm glad this submission isn't an IT skills competition !
Simon.

Sent from my iPad