

D2016/8270

Ashley Albury  
A/General Manager Hunter & Central Coast  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
PO Box 1226  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Ms Albury

**Draft Hunter Regional Plan**

Thank you for the letter advising of the exhibition of the *Draft Hunter Regional Plan* and the companion *Draft Plan for a Growing Hunter City*.

WaterNSW is responsible for managing and protecting 42 water storages and associated water supply across NSW. WaterNSW's assets in the Hunter region are the Glennies Creek, Glenbawn and Lostock Dams. These supply water for town water supplies, stock and irrigation, domestic use, water conservation and environmental flows. Our key interests are the protection of water storage and supply infrastructure, and ensuring future land uses on floodplains downstream of these storages are suitable for flood prone land.

WaterNSW supports the identification of water storages on relevant maps in the plan, and the proposed flood risk management in *Direction 4.3 Build the region's resilience to natural hazards*, and *Action 4.3.1 Investigate opportunities to improve the quality and consistency of hazard data within the region* and *Action 4.3.2 Integrate risk-management frameworks for coastal, floodplain and other hazards into local strategies and planning controls, prioritising areas identified to support regional growth*. WaterNSW requests continued engagement in relation to management of floodplains below the three water storages of Glennies Creek, Glenbawn and Lostock Dams.

WaterNSW notes the *Direction 3.2 Secure the health of water resources and coastal landscapes* and the associated *Action 3.2.1 Protect the Hunter's water supplies to meet the needs of the environment and support the growth and development of towns and industries*. WaterNSW has responsibility under the *Water NSW Act 2014* to manage and protect catchment health and water quality in declared catchment areas. At this stage the Sydney catchment area is the only declared catchment area.

In the Sydney catchment area, a requirement for development to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality has been successfully implemented. This has been facilitated through the use of land use planning mechanisms including section 117(2) *Direction 5.2* and State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011. The Glennies Creek, Glenbawn and Lostock Dam catchments are not declared catchment areas under the *Water NSW Act 2014* and WaterNSW has no regulatory role or authority for catchment health or water quality in these catchments. WaterNSW has no comment in relation to Action 3.2.1.

If you have any queries on the above, please contact me on 4724 2452 or [malcolm.hughes@watarnsw.com.au](mailto:malcolm.hughes@watarnsw.com.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Hughes".

**MALCOLM HUGHES**  
Manager Environment and Planning

26/2/16