

Ref: D2016/73572

Mr Ashley Albury  
Director Regions, Western  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
PO Box 58  
Dubbo NSW 2830

Dear Mr Albury,

**Draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan**

Thank you for your email dated 15 April 2016 advising of the exhibition of the *Draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan*.

WaterNSW is responsible for managing and protecting 42 water storages and associated water supply across NSW. WaterNSW's assets in the area covered by the Draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan include the Burrendong Dam, Carcoar Dam, Wyangala Dam and Windermere Dam.

WaterNSW's interests particularly relate to the protection of the portion of the Sydney drinking water catchment within the Central West Orana Region. Areas of the Oberon and Lithgow local government areas (LGAs) are within the Sydney drinking water catchment, including areas of the Warragamba Special Area. The Special Area provides a protective buffer around the Lake Burragorang water storage that provides drinking water supplies for the Greater Sydney region.

The protection of water quality and maintenance of ecological integrity are complementary objectives of Special Area management. As the extent of Special Area within these two LGAs is also protected by the Blue Mountains National Park, WaterNSW's primary interest is to ensure that the plan addresses the protection of drinking water quality within the outer catchment areas.

WaterNSW notes that Direction 3.4 proposes to manage and conserve water resources across the region. In the Sydney catchment area, a requirement for development to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality has been successfully implemented. The inclusion of reference to the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, the protections provided under the relevant legislation and the mapping of the catchment in Figure 1 is supported.

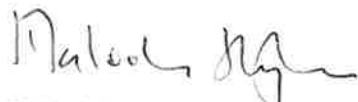
WaterNSW considers that the Draft Regional Plan generally responds appropriately to WaterNSW's interests in the protection and management of critical water supply infrastructure throughout the region and to the protection of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.

However, to provide a fuller extent of WaterNSW's water supply infrastructure in the region and its role in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment and to ensure the draft Regional Plan contains the most up to date information the following amendments are recommended:

- Page 42    Action 2.2.1    After 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph include the text:  
*WaterNSW also operates the Fish River Water Supply Scheme (FRWSS) which provides treated water to Oberon Council and augments supply to the Lithgow greater area and to customers along the pipeline (out of Oberon Dam). Oberon Dam also provides raw water to Energy Australia and Sydney Water's Blue Mountains drinking water supply.*
- Page 42    Action 2.2.1    Remove 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph text and replace with:  
*WaterNSW completed the Phase 1 investigation into potential storages in the Lachlan-Belubula Valley in 2014 to improve water security in the long term, with Cranky Rock Dam identified as the preferred site. The NSW Government has approved investigations under Phase 2 to obtain further details of the Cranky Rock Dam site and identify potential alternative and/or complementary options.*
- Page 61    Direction 3.4    After 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph include the text:  
*Under the Water NSW Act 2014 and Water NSW Regulation 2013, areas of land have been declared as Special Areas. The region contains parts of the Warragamba Special Area, which performs a critical role in protecting the water quality in the storage.*

If you have any queries on the above, please contact Alison Kniha, Environmental Policy and Planning Manager on 4724 2451 or at [alison.kniha@waterNSW.com.au](mailto:alison.kniha@waterNSW.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



**MALCOLM HUGHES**  
**Manager Environment and Planning**

4/7/16