

Ref: D2016/80869

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

Dear Mr Albury,

Draft Riverina Murray Regional Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments during the exhibition of the *Draft Riverina Murray Regional Plan*.

WaterNSW is responsible for managing and protecting 42 water storages and associated water supply across NSW. Our assets in the area covered by the Draft Riverina Murray Regional Plan include the Blowering Dam and the Hume Dam.

WaterNSW acknowledges *Direction 1.3 Manage and use the region's natural resources sustainably, Action 1.3.1 Support the sustainable use and conservation of water resources, Direction 4.2 Protect the region's environmental assets and biodiversity values and Action 4.2.2 Maintain healthy waterways and wetlands, including downstream environments.*

WaterNSW has a 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 catchment areas referred to in Action 4.2.2 of the Draft Regional Plan 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.

To provide a fuller extent of WaterNSW's water supply infrastructure in the region and to ensure the draft Regional Plan contains the most up to date information the following amendments are recommended:

Pages 24 and 25 Figure 8

Include in the 'Agriculture and Natural Resources' map a symbol for WaterNSW's key water storages which include Blowering Dam and the Hume Dam. Label Bulk Water Supply in legend. WaterNSW can provide the relevant GIS layers if required.

Page 46 Action 2.3.1 After the 1st paragraph of the *Water and Waste* section include the text:

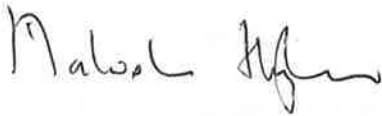
WaterNSW manages bulk water infrastructure in the region which includes the Blowering and Hume Dams, with the Burrumbidgee and Wyangala Dams, located outside the region, also providing a water supply. The northern part of the region is covered by the Lachlan catchment where water security is a critical issue. 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.

Pages 70 Figure 17 Include in the 'Environmental Assets' map a symbol for WaterNSW's
and 71 key water storages which include Blowering Dam and the Hume Dam.
 Label Bulk Water Supply in legend. WaterNSW can provide the
 relevant GIS layers if required.

WaterNSW welcomes further engagement in the preparation of the Regional Plan and its subsequent implementation.

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.

Yours sincerely,



MALCOLM HUGHES
Manager Environment and Planning

21/7/16