

Ref: D2016/89322

Ms Linda Davis
A/Director Regions, Southern
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 5475
Wollongong NSW 2520

Dear Ms Davis

Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments during the exhibition of the Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan (the Draft Plan).

WaterNSW is responsible for managing and protecting 42 water storages and associated water supply infrastructure across NSW. Significant WaterNSW assets and infrastructure are located within the South East and Tablelands region. In addition to providing water to the areas within the region, these assets are part of the drinking water supplies for the Sydney, Blue Mountains and Illawarra Metropolitan Areas. WaterNSW assets in the area covered by the Draft Plan include the following:

- Burrinjuck Dam
- Brogo Dam
- Wingecarribee Reservoir
- Fitzroy Falls Reservoir
- Avon Dam
- Nepean Dam
- Tallowa Dam (Lake Yarrunga; Goulburn Mulwaree, Wingecarribee and Shoalhaven LGAs)
- significant land holdings in the Braidwood area (Palerang LGA).

Other key WaterNSW water supply infrastructure assets located nearby and providing some indirect economic benefits for the South East and Tablelands region in support of its future target growth priorities include:

- Warragamba Dam (Lake Burragorang)
- Blowering Dam
- Hume Dam
- Cordeaux Dam
- Cataract Dam
- Wyangala Dam
- Carcoar Dam
- Oberon Dam and the Fish River Supply system
- Upper Canal.

Sydney Drinking Water Catchment

WaterNSW's interests particularly relate to the protection of that part of the Sydney drinking water catchment that lies within the South East and Tablelands region. WaterNSW notes that Direction

2.4 proposes to protect and secure the region's water resources and the Draft Plan contains information about the protection of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. 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 Figures 2, 4 and 5 is supported.

WaterNSW considers that the Draft Regional Plan generally responds appropriately to our 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 ensure the draft Regional Plan contains the most appropriate information the following amendments are recommended:

Page 35	Protecting the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment (box)	<p><u>First paragraph</u></p> <p><i>Replace</i></p> <p>Protecting water quality and quantity in this catchment is essential for the health and security of these communities</p> <p><i>with</i></p> <p>Protecting water quality and quantity in this catchment is essential for the health and security of communities in the region and Greater Sydney area.</p>
Page 50	Figure 6	The Figure incorrectly identifies the Upper Nepean State Conservation Area as a National Park and should be recoloured. Also, underground mining is not excluded from State Conservation Areas.
	<p>Include in relevant maps the area of the declared Sydney drinking water catchment, the location of Special Areas and the location of key water storages and critical transfer infrastructure.</p> <p>WaterNSW can provide the relevant GIS layers if required.</p>	

Augmentation / Upgrades

Lachlan Valley water security

WaterNSW is currently investigating options to improve water security for the Lachlan Valley in the long term. An investigation has been completed into potential storages in the Lachlan-Belubula Valley to improve water security in the long term.

Brogo Dam

Brogo Dam is located on the Brogo River in the South East and Tablelands region, approximately 27 km north-west of the town of Bega. The storage is used to supply town water to Bermagui and Cabargo, and provides water for irrigation purposes in the Brogo and Bega river valleys.

From a WaterNSW perspective, the storage at Brogo has the potential for growth if it were to be augmented.

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