

Ref: D2017/30231

Mr Craig Diss
Director Northern Region
Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 949
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Dear Mr Diss

Draft New England North West Regional Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft New England North West Regional Plan (the Draft Plan).

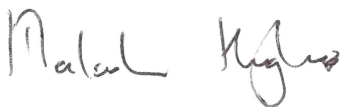
WaterNSW is responsible for managing and protecting 42 water storages and associated water supply infrastructure across NSW. Our assets in the area covered by the Draft Plan include Chaffey Dam, Keepit Dam, Split Dam and Copeton Dam. WaterNSW also has responsibility under the *Water NSW Act 2014* to manage and protect catchment health and water quality in declared catchment areas. At this stage the Sydney drinking water catchment is the only declared catchment area. WaterNSW has no regulatory or authority role for catchment health or water quality within catchments referred to in the Draft Plan.

In July 2016, the Department of Primary Industry Water's (DPI Water) unregulated and groundwater customer systems were transferred to WaterNSW. Services now under WaterNSW's responsibility include the operation and maintenance of hydrometric services (including stream gauging and groundwater monitoring, metering services and water quality monitoring equipment), assets (physical/non-physical), including those assets located in the area covered by the Draft Plan.

WaterNSW welcomes further engagement in the preparation of the Regional Plan and its subsequent implementation. Attachment 1 details issues raised in the Draft Plan that may have implications for WaterNSW.

If you have any queries on the above, please contact Alison Kniha, Catchment Protection Planning Manager on 4724 2451 or at alison.kniha@watarnsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



MALCOLM HUGHES
Manager Catchment Protection

16/3/17

Issues identified in the draft Plan that may have implications for WaterNSW

REFERENCE	ISSUE	COMMENT
Figure 3. p. 12-13	Regional Plan Strategy map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include a symbol in the map's legend for Water NSW's key water storage infrastructure. b. Include text on the map, next to the relevant water infrastructure, which include Chaffey Dam, Keepit Dam, Split Rock Dam and Copeton Dam.
Water infrastructure p. 55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. After the 1st paragraph of Water Infrastructure section include the text to the right. b. Delete the last sentence from the 3rd paragraph. 	Add text: "WaterNSW manages important water infrastructure within the Draft plan area which includes the Chaffey Dam, Keepit Dam, Split Rock Dam and Copeton Dam. These dams' safety standards are under way or have recently been completed."
Water infrastructure p.55	Statement " <i>Current bulk water supplies can support the forecast town water supply to 2036</i> ".	WaterNSW is concerned this statement is not correct, and suggests further discussions with WaterNSW and Tamworth Regional Council are required to establish forecast supply more accurately.
Goal 5 p.69	Discussion regarding water quality protection and management of catchments and waterways.	There are no declared water catchments pursuant to the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> within the Draft Plan area. Therefore, WaterNSW has no regulatory role or authority for catchment health or water quality in these catchments.
Action 5.1.3 p.72	Any development should have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality	The requirement for development to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality has been successfully implemented within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. It is recommended the Department discuss with WaterNSW the issues associated with implementation.