

## SUBMISSION TO THE GOULBURN IVT REVIEW

Before delivering my submission, I would like to introduce myself as Chair of the Committee that represents the largest number of Goulburn irrigators, Goulburn Murray Water-Central Goulburn Water Services Committee. In addition to that, I have further experience in water policy through being a member of the Victorian Carryover Review Committee, the Stakeholders Advisory Committee to the Connections Project (2008 to current), the ISCC plus many other committees within GMW and the GBCMA, all to do with water and the environment.

Firstly, I would like to state that I am absolutely astounded by DWELP's about-face regarding the reasoning for their preferred option being based upon economics through downstream corporate pressure, superseding science's best environmental outcomes.

The fact that several DWELP representatives have stated at various meetings that there is an element of risk of further environmental damage being created through pulses of deliveries is also bewildering.

Furthermore, the more Goulburn water that is delivered downstream, the greater the delivery losses. These increased losses are also borne by the river/environment.

The State has invested \$2 billion dollars by modernising the GMID. We should be encouraging investment to come and utilise this infrastructure. This can be achieved in the short

term by minimising the Goulburn IVT. It encourages investment to ‘come to the water’ rather than ‘move the water to the cheaper investment’. Failure to do so, risks leaving stranded state assets in the GMID.

Traditionally efficiencies in the Bulk Entitlements (BE) are returned to the consumptive pool.

The Connections Project has saved delivery losses in the GMID and converted the losses from the BE into performing consumptive entitlements. As water previously used in the GMID mobilises to other areas new delivery losses are created. These new losses impact on the efficiencies of the new diminished pool of BE’s. When this in turn reduces the volume of efficiencies returning to the consumptive pool, allocations are impacted. This challenges the integrity of entitlement and has a third party effect of reducing the asset value of entitlement holders.

As increasing Goulburn water deliveries leave the GMID where the delivery losses have been saved, the greater the risk that the environment supplements delivery losses and challenges the integrity of Goulburn entitlement.

Peter Hacon

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