



Wimmera CMA

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Contact: Greg Fletcher
Date: 7 August 2017

Ms Heather Griffith
Manager – Water Resource Plans
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Heather

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT WIMMERA-MALLEE WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Wimmera CMA (CMA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to inform the development of the Draft *Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan* and congratulates DELWP on the work undertaken to date. Following are some suggested edits and comments for consideration.

Section 1.6 – Accreditation and Compliance

In light of recent community concerns relating to apparent non-compliance with water resource management regulations, it would be worth outlining any planned Victorian compliance actions over the life of the plan. This will help the community retain confidence in the plan and its role in achieving the intended outcomes.

Section 3.3 – Population and Towns

McLeod's Creek is actually in the Hopkins Basin so is not within the WRP area. It would also be good to improve the consistency in the table's terminology – for the Navarre/Landsborough it would be better to call it "Franks Gully Supply System" and the source of water is Malakoff Creek rather than just the Wimmera Basin. Given it is not supplied by the Wimmera Mallee System Headworks, Elmhurst should be a separate entry. It is supplied from Hickman's Creek.

Nhill's water is supplied from the Wimmera/Glenelg basins rather than Murray system.

The comment about the supply systems being insufficient to provide irrigation is not quite right – there is some very small scale irrigation from pipeline supplied water and water for irrigation was provided by the Wimmera Glenelg Headworks until the purchase of the entitlement for the environment. It might be worth mentioning the pipeline supplies water for intensive agriculture (feedlots, poultry sheds etc.)

3.4 Recreation and community values

Figure 6 appears blurry and may need to be higher resolution.

4.1.1 Surface Water

McKenzie River should be spelt MacKenzie River. The text around the flows at Glenorchy needs to be reworded to be clearer and remove the duplication of the statement that flows are variable. It would also be useful to specify the year(s) of no flow at Glenorchy given the year of maximum flows is specified. Four on-stream harvesting storages are introduced but only three are named (as there are only three). The presence of Pine Lake, Dock Lake and Green Lake as former storages should also be acknowledged in this text. Also there are a number of small headworks storages (Mt Cole Reservoir, Panrock Creek Reservoir) that could be mentioned here.

4.1.3 Salinity and Water Quality



It should be noted that whilst most lakes and wetlands in the Wimmera-Avon Basin are ephemeral, some (water storages) are permanent.

4.4.3 Glenelg basin resources

Water supplies from Moora Reservoir and pickup in the Moora Channel should be included as a transfer from the Glenelg basin.

8.1 History

It is our understanding that a summer channel run also took place for farm dams close to the Grampians (now known as Supply System 6).

8.3 Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline project

The Wimmera Irrigation District was not just located near Horsham, a substantial proportion of the district was located near Murtoa.

8.3.3 Water entitlements in the Wimmera-Mallee supply system

It should be noted in Figure 21 that there is a passing flow for Fyans Creek. Also in the discussion around spills/passing flows there is some ability to manage them. For example in 2016 spills from Lake Wartook were diverted into Dock Lake to achieve wetland bird breeding outcomes. Also passing flows at Lake Lonsdale can be accrued or substituted with flows at Taylor's Lake subject to the agreement of the GWMWater and Wimmera CMA.

8.4 Pyrenees and East Grampians supply system

As mentioned previously McLeod's Creek and Buangor are in the Hopkins Catchment. It would be worth including discussion around Central Highlands Water's supply system for Navarre and Landsborough in Section 8 as well.

9.3.1 Increasing understanding and capacity in the Wimmera-Mallee

The Aboriginal Waterway Assessment process for the Wimmera River has been successfully undertaken and Wimmera CMA can provide information around its outcomes to inform the final document. There can also be updated information provided around other projects pertaining to engagement with the Aboriginal community.

12.2.3 Urban water strategies

Figure 22 need to be a higher resolution to enable it to be clearly viewed.

13.2.1 Runoff dams

It would be valuable for consistency and public education for relevant sections of the *Water Act* to be referenced when outlining the need for a licence for a commercial or irrigation dam as well as requirements for building a dam on a waterway.

13.3 Potential interception in the Wimmera-Mallee WRP area

In Table 10, shifting from grazing to cropping enterprises will not lead to increased runoff but rather the converse. Practices such as minimal or no till farming, laser levelling, adding gypsum and clay delving are undertaken in many locations with the intent of retaining moisture for crops and reducing runoff.

15.4 Environmental Watering Priorities

The lower Wimmera River is also classified as a Heritage River under the *Heritage Rivers Act* (1994) and extends to the Wirrengren Plain, not Outlet Creek. There are more terminal lakes to the Wimmera River than just Lakes Hindmarsh and Albacutya such as Ross Lakes, Lake Brambuk and the Wirrengren Plain.

16.4.4 Measures to achieve water quality objectives and outcomes

It should be noted that the *Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Strategic Plan* has been superseded by the *Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Management Plan* in the *Wimmera Waterway Strategy 2014-2022*.



18.4.4 Priority Environmental Assets

The Wimmera River terminates in Lake Hindmarsh. Mt William Creek, Burnt Creek and the MacKenzie River terminate in the Wimmera River and Bungalally Creek terminates in the MacKenzie River. Beulah Weir Pool should be included in the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline wetlands (although it can be supplied by unregulated flows along the Yarriambiack Creek).

Photographs

The photograph credit to Greg Fletcher should be to Mary Fielding. Fyans Creek Gauge appears to be Mt William Creek Gauge.

Should you require any further information or assistance regarding this submission please don't hesitate to contact Greg Fletcher at this office.

Yours sincerely

TONY BAKER
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE