



V22/18#17
Your Ref: D22/0486

Mr Bryce Wilde
Executive Director
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Wilde

Response to the audit of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Barwon Darling Valley Floodplain 2017

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2022 regarding the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) audit of the implementation of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Barwon Darling Valley Floodplain 2017.

I note the report included positive findings in relation to administrative processes to support plan implementation, and assessment of floodwork approvals in line with legislative requirements. It is also noted that there are several areas where further work is required.

The Department of Planning and the Environment has considered each of these recommendations and suggested actions, in the attached tables. As you have identified in your report the department is progressing several areas of work which I believe will contribute to addressing matters identified within the audit. These are:

1. Finalisation of the Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting framework of the northern Murray Darling Basin including scoping the floodplain management plan monitoring and evaluation requirements. Funding support has been sought to assist with the implementation of this work.
2. Securing of funding and engagement of key staff to manage the implementation of the Health Floodplain Projects monitoring program as part of business-as-usual for the department
3. Work to update and amend the Licence Procedure Manual in relation to the assessment and amendment of flood work applications to improve existing processes is underway
4. Work is being progressed to inform future work programs for unauthorised flood works including remediation and compliance
5. Progression of an amendments register and process to document proposed amendments and their consideration

DPE Water also continues to work collaboratively with WaterNSW and with NRAR to ensure consideration and implementation of recommendations that span this water sector.

The outcomes of this work, along with the Commission's audit and department's current review under Section 43 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, will inform the next steps in relation to this plan. If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Peter Hyde, Director Inland Planning at peter.hyde@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Bentley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jim Bentley
CEO – NSW Water Sector

8 April 2022