

**The Hon Rose Jackson MLC**  
Minister for Water, Minister for Housing,  
Minister for Homelessness  
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth  
Minister for the North Coast



Our Ref: MF24/1647  
Your Ref: D24/2207, D24/2218

Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte  
Commissioner  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: Hugh.Durrant-Whyte@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Professor Durrant-Whyte Hugh

**Audit of implementation of the Hastings and Bellinger unregulated and alluvial water sharing plans**

Thank you for your letter of 25 June 2024 about the completion of the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) audit of the Hastings and Bellinger unregulated and alluvial water sharing plans. I would like to thank the NRC for its work on this important audit.

I note the audit found that while many of the provisions of the plans are being implemented, on balance the provisions of the plans have not been given full effect in accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000*.

I am advised by the Water Group of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW Water Group) that it is progressing work to address the audit recommendations and suggested actions. The outcomes of the NRC's audit, and other supporting activities by DCCEEW Water Group, will inform the next steps in relation to these management plans.

I note the Deputy Secretary, DCCEEW Water Group has provided you with a more detailed response addressing the audit findings. I am also advised that WaterNSW's response is under development.

I am keen for ongoing communication and engagement between the NRC and DCCEEW Water Group to occur and support ongoing meetings to discuss improvements in process and approach.

Should you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Giselle Howard Executive Director Water Planning in DCCEEW Water Group, via email at [giselle.howard@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:giselle.howard@dpie.nsw.gov.au) or by phone on 0411 250 805.

Yours sincerely



**Rose Jackson MLC**

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast

Date: 26.7.24

Thanks High-  
clearly was to  
do, I very much  
value the role of  
the NRE and will  
inset agencies  
to develop  
a plan to  
act on your  
findings.  
R.