

**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: MF23/2660  
Your ref: D23/3209

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

By email: [hugh.durrant-whyte@nrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hugh.durrant-whyte@nrc.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Professor Durrant-Whyte *Hugh*

### **Audit of implementation of the five inland groundwater sharing plans**

Thank you for your letter of 12 September 2023 about the completion of the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) audit of 5 inland groundwater 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 Department of Planning and Environment – Water (DPE Water) 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 DPE Water, will inform the next steps in relation to these management plans.

I note the Deputy Secretary, DPE Water has provided you with a more detailed response addressing the audit findings. I am also advised that a response from WaterNSW is currently being prepared.

I am keen for ongoing communication and engagement between the Commission and DPE Water 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 Giselle Howard Executive Director Water Planning in DPE 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,  
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Date: 17.11.23

*Thanks so much Hugh -  
es always the engagement  
of the NRC is very  
important to ensuring we  
are doing our  
work in the  
best possible way.  
R.*