

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



MF24/2335

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*

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 2024 and the NRC's statutory review of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source 2016* (the plan), in line with Section 43A of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

The NRC review report for Murrumbidgee Regulated water sharing plan recommends that the plan is replaced, supported by the completion of the recommendations of this review. Noting, the opportunities for improvement identified, including:

- environmental water rules in the Plan and protections for environmental water
- changes to the allocations framework to improve equity and manage water availability where supply shortfalls occur
- modelling used in water management decision-making
- revision of the Long-Term Average Annual Extraction Limits (LTAAELs) to ensure these represent a sustainable level of extraction with greater transparency and use of actual extraction data in the assessment against extraction limits
- the Plan's outcomes for Aboriginal water users and communities.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will further consider these recommendations as part of the replacement of this plan and engage with the NRC as agreed at an officer level throughout this process.

Should you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Peter Hyde, Director Inland Planning, DCCEEW via email at peter.hyde@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

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

*Thanks as always
Hugh - your support
on water management
is most appreciated!
R.*

Date: *5.11.24*