

From:
To: [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission on Murray Regional Water Strategy
Date: Monday, 6 June 2022 11:43:09 PM

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MURRAY REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

I like many NSW Murray Landholders and Community members are alarmed and very disappointed with the whole process that DPIE has used to produce and deliver the draft MRWS document. Starting with the double-booked meeting in Deniliquin (ie. metering meeting at the same venue and the same time!) Not a bad idea to have your meeting at the same venue (especially for people that have to travel longer distances) but for goodness sake not at the same time for the main presentation.

While I commend the dept. for planning for future water management your stakeholder engagement is and was appalling. Your own Community engagement policy appears to have been ignored in the fact that you prepared the draft with very little if at all any involvement with the most affected stakeholders-- Landholders, Industry, and the general Community. In your overview it is acknowledged that – *“it has been prepared in consultation with local councils and Aboriginal communities”*.-rightly so but what about the majority of us that will be impacted most. . This would have to rate as one of the worst examples of consulting and engaging with the key stakeholders that are negatively affected by the issues as presented. 19 Council meetings, 10 Indigenous meetings, **Landholder and Industry representative meetings = ZERO!!!!**The process for Reconnecting Rivers is not far behind!!!! WHY DOES IT APPEAR THAT DPIE IS PURPOSELY ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE COMMUNITIES!!! And DPIE wonder why Landholders have very little trust and respect for agencies that are supposed to be part of TEAM NSW!!!

Please be aware this is not a finger pointing exercise at individuals but more a failing of process and agencies that are more focused on pandering to the MDBA and their unrealistic basin plan targets than working with their key stakeholders for the benefit of Team NSW.

I am still at a loss to understand the fact that industry and key stakeholders have been purposely ostracized out of the original engagement process to put together the draft MRWS. Following the Deniliquin meeting it took more than a month to get a hard copy of the document that we needed to comment on - long after the official closing date for submissions.

As I have had the opportunity to have input into the Murray Valley Private Diverters, and the RGA submissions (which have gone into considerable detail) this submission will be brief. I fully support their call that the Strategy **should be immediately withdrawn** from the current exhibition process **and rewritten with proper consultation and input** from all affected stakeholders especially general security Irrigators and riparian Landholders that will be impacted most.

On behalf of the Wakool River Association I would have liked to provide a more detailed submission but I have lost confidence and trust in the process that your dept. has used to engage with affected stakeholders. This draft document and the flawed assumptions underpinning the strategy appear to be more about appeasing the MDBA and the proposed WRP (which by the way key stakeholders have not seen a new draft) than to work with their key stakeholders and NSW Govt. agencies to nurture and defend **TEAM NSW**.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
Yours Sincerely

Wakool River Association

From:
To: [DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox](#)
Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy
Date: Thursday, 2 June 2022 2:08:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

The draft doc turned up yesterday arvo, around 5 weeks after the meeting in Deni and long after submissions closed. As I believe every one of my comments are very relevant to highlight some of the reasons why this draft is being rejected by many in the Murray valley in the hope that DPIE will take on board these type of comments to improve the processes used to engage and consult with affected Landholders and the broader Community and produce a doc. that we can all have ownership of.

I would appreciate my comments being included as an official submission. If necessary and if I am given an extension of time the email could be restructured to more of a submission style. Please let me know.

From: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox
Sent: Thursday, 2 June 2022 8:18 AM
To:
Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

Hi

Your comments have been noted and passed onto the Murray RWS team. I will not save your comments as an official submission.

We hope you will still stay involved in the future.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2022 9:20 AM
To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox <regionalwater.strategies@dpie.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

Hi [REDACTED]

I still have not received the docs. I have been online to view them initially, but I cannot spend too much time staring at a screen especially when I am doing a submission. You are right I am extremely unhappy with the whole process that has been used to produce and deliver the draft doc.

Starting with the double-booked meeting in Deni.(ie. metering meeting at the same venue and

the same time!) Not a bad idea to have your meeting at the same venue (especially for people that have to travel longer distances) but for goodness sake not at the same time for the main presentation.

While I commend the dept. for planning for future water management your stakeholder engagement is and was appalling. Your own Community engagement policy appears to have been ignored in the fact that you prepared the draft with very little if at all any involvement with the most affected stakeholders Landholders, Industry, and the general Community. In your overview it is acknowledged that – “it has been prepared in consultation with local councils and Aboriginal communities”.-rightly so but what about the majority of us that will be impacted most.

On behalf of the Wakool River Association I would have liked to provide a submission but I have lost confidence and trust in the process that your dept. has used to properly engage with stakeholders especially those that are most impacted by the issues identified.

This draft doc. appears to be more about appeasing the MDBA and the proposed WRP (which by the way key stakeholders have not seen a draft) than to work with their key stakeholders and NSW Govt. agencies to nurture and defend **TEAM NSW**.

Yours Sincerely

From: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox

Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2022 8:09 AM

To:

Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

Morning ,

I am sorry to hear you didn't receive the documents in time before Public exhibition closed. A team member of mine send the documents out later in the week when I received your postal address. Have you received them now?

I am noting you are not happy with the process and am happy to take that on board as an official submission on the process if that is what you want.

I just want to clarify that the documents are all available online as well to view and download. We have stepped away from printing too many copies as we were throwing out a lot of paper. We were happy to send copies to who requested though, it is a shame they didn't reach you in time.

I know this answer won't satisfy your concerns, but if it helps I am happy to give you a couple more days extension to submit?

[Redacted signature block]



[Redacted footer block]

From:

Sent: Sunday, 22 May 2022 9:54 PM

To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox <regionalwater.strategies@dpiensw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

Still waiting. Probably too late now that subs close tonight. This would have to rate as one of the worst examples of consulting and engaging with the key stakeholders that are negatively affected by the issues as presented. 19 Council meetings, 10 Indigenous meetings, Landholder and Industry representative meetings = ZERO!!!! **The process for Reconnecting Rivers is not far behind!!!! WHY DOES IT APPEAR THAT DPIE IS PURPOSELY ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE COMMUNITIES!!!**

And you guys wonder why Landholders have very little trust and respect for agencies that are supposed to be part of TEAM NSW!!!

Please be aware this is not a finger pointing exercise at individuals but more a failing of process and agencies that are more focused on pandering to the MBDA and their unrealistic basin targets than working with their key stakeholders for the benefit of Team NSW.

Apologies to whoever sent this but I am frustrated at the process not the person that that was good enough to check my mail

Yours Sincerely

Note: I was halfway through collating a submission tonight but have since decided to write a letter to vent my disappointment at the fact that industry and key stakeholders have been purposely ostracized out of the original engagement process to put together the original RWS draft.

Why is it so hard to get a hard copy of something that we are supposed to comment on?

From: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox

Sent: Thursday, 19 May 2022 9:33 AM

To:

Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

Hi

Just a quick check in to see if you have received the Strategies?

Kind regards,

Regional Water Strategies Team

Water Division| Department of Planning and Environment

regionalwater.strategies@dpiensw.gov.au

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2022 6:56 PM

To: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox <regionalwater.strategies@dpiensw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

That would be great. My postal address is

Could you please send 3

copies
Thank you

From: DPIE W Regional Water Strategies Mailbox

Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2022 2:54 PM

To:

Subject: Printed version of draft Murray Regional Water Strategy

Hi

How are you? Thank you for attending last week's session in Deni.

You asked to be sent a printed version of the draft Murray Strategy and Long list of options.

Can you please provide me with an address you would like this sent to?

[Redacted]



[Redacted]