

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 Inquiry into the augmentation of water supply for rural and regional New South Wales

Supplementary questions for Lower Darling Horticultural Group, 26 October 2016 hearing

Question from the Honourable Mick Veitch, MLC

1. *Ms Rachel Strachan stated in her evidence on page fourteen of the transcript: "As we said in our submission, in 2003, due to calibrations being incorrect, we had the first cease-to-flow in the Darling River because Wetherell Lake was no longer as big as they originally thought it would be." How were the calibrations incorrect? How was the inaccuracy identified? What is the subsequent impact upon the management of the Menindee Lake System of the recalibration?*

**The capacity of Lake Wetherell was surveyed using aerial technology as part of the Menindee Lakes ESD project in the early 2000's. The survey identified that the capacity of Lake Wetherell at full supply level was over-estimated. This means that there will typically be less water available to be diverted to the Lower Darling River to meet the water requirements of Broken Hill and irrigation entitlements in the Lower Darling River when management control of the Menindee Lakes Scheme reverts to NSW when the cumulative storage volume of the Menindee Lakes reduces to 480GL.**

**If you require further detail, it would be best to confer with DPI Water.**

I am happy to answer any further questions that may arise.

Kind Regards

*Rachel Strachan*

Tulney Point Station