



Branch: Upper Lachlan

Date: 28 November 2020

The Chair
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
Legislative Council, NSW Parliament
Sydney NSW

Honourable Chair,

Re: Response to The Honourable Ben Franklin in relation to the impact of floods on farms in the Upper Lachlan during 2016-17 (bottom of p. 24 of uncorrected transcript from Monday, 2 November 2020)

In the time available, it has not been possible to obtain an accurate dollar figure from the South East Local Land Services concerning the economic impact of floods in 2016-17 in the Upper Lachlan area. However, in relation to the topic of this inquiry, the raising of the Wyangala Dam wall would not reduce the impact of future flooding in our area. Furthermore, we would like to emphasise that improved land management practices would undoubtedly decrease the impact of future flooding by:

- reducing the velocity of runoff water,
- reducing the loss of precious topsoil, and
- improving the quality of water entering the Wyangala Dam.

Consequently, we request that the NSW Government work and co-invest with landowners and Traditional Custodians in the Wyangala Dam catchment area to improve land management practices in support of improved soil and landscape health that would yield significant long-term economic, environmental and social benefits. This approach would result in a positive return on investment and would cost significantly less to the taxpayer than the proposal to raise the Wyangala Dam wall.

In addition, we request that the NSW Government make available for public scrutiny, the methodology being employed to conduct the Wyangala Dam wall raising business case study.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Alders, AO
Chair, Upper Lachlan Branch, NSW Farmers