

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

RATIONALE FOR, AND IMPACTS OF, NEW DAMS AND OTHER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN NSW

Wednesday 10 February 2021

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MR KEN ROSS, GENERAL MANAGER,
WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL**

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN: Thanks very much, Chair. If I could just move to a different issue from the Wentworth submission which refers to water infrastructure technologies—but this would be relevant to everybody potentially if you would like to jump in—that promote enhanced environmental outcomes. A point that you made in your submission was that any of these technologies should include considerations for the benefit of the wider community, which is I think is a good point. My question is: Have you had any feedback from the community broadly or from landholders about particular types of technologies that could be supported by Government; that we could recommend in this Committee that you think are actually things that have not come up in the debate but are worthy of raising now to us?

Mr ROSS: Thank you for the question. Unfortunately, I am drawing a blank in relation to that. I will have to take it on notice. But the participation and the consultation has not delivered any outcomes. In my mind, it is a common sense approach to have that balance of having opportunity everyone to be satisfied and work with innovations and technologies to achieve that.

*The question from **The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN** relates to our comments below in WSC submission.*

e) Water infrastructure technologies that may promote enhanced environmental outcomes, Benefits assessment for infrastructure investments should align with broader policy directions and include considerations of benefit for the wider community, beyond the boundaries of the infrastructure provider. A deeper understanding of value may be gained through working with a range of stakeholders including the end users of infrastructure. In looking toward the future it is imperative that any projects deliver on these key aspects of design. They must be innovative using the latest technology to deliver water for all aspects of life.

ANSWER: The comment made within the submission is one of a general statement and was not constructed due to any feedback from the community broadly or from landholders. Accordingly there is no additional detail to be provided for the question on notice.

Further additional information regarding costs to Council for water carting and bores at Pooncarie due to drought and dry Darling River as attached.

We thank the members of the inquiry for the opportunity to provide further information.