

**Submission
No 37**

INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW

Organisation: Bathurst Regional Council

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30 July 2012

The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to Inquiry into the Adequacy of Water Storages in NSW

Bathurst Regional Council owns and operates two water storages, being Chifley Dam (30,800ML capacity) and Winburndale Dam (1,700ML capacity).

Chifley Dam is Council's town water supply dam, and there are a number of irrigators who share in the water prior to extraction at the Water Filtration Plant for town water supply. This arrangement has been managed successfully for well over 50 years, and Council's long term plans are based on the continued ownership and operation of the dam by Council. The dam was strengthened and raised in 2001 in order to meet the safety requirements of the NSW Dams Safety Committee. Council has successfully managed the storage to meet the agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental needs. In addition, Council has commenced preliminary investigations into the further augmentation of the dam given the growth expected in the region and anticipated changes to the safe yield of dams due to climate change effects.

Winburndale Dam provides a raw water supply for parks and gardens, and some industry in Bathurst, and has been owned and managed by Council for the past 80 years. Investigations, studies and reports are underway in regards to the strengthening of Winburndale Dam to comply with current dam safety standards.

In regards to water storages generally, Council considers that town water access to regulated water storages should be an option that is available and investigated when augmentation is required.

Council has not had to impose water restrictions since the early 1980's as it takes a pro active approach to the management of its bulk water supply, and accordingly considers that it is in the most suitable position to effectively control its water assets.

Yours faithfully

Doug Patterson
DIRECTOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES