

**Submission
No 17**

INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW

Organisation: Wakool Landholders Association

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Wakool Landholders Association.

We represent 350 Landholders in southern New South Wales. It has been a long held view of our association that more storages are the answer to the Basin Plan. We cannot keep taking more water from rural Australia without impacting on communities and food production. If through the basin plan process Australia is happy to send an extra two million megs out to sea we definitely need more storages, its that simple.

It has been a fault of recent governments not to augment our storages. The growth of towns and cities in Australia has not been considered and has created enormous stress on the current water storages especially in dry times. We cannot afford to just keep cutting entitlements in order to satisfy urban concerns. Concerns that are based on flawed science and perceptions. The reality is that environments will suffer far more if landholders capacity to be profitable are deminished, a view not understood by the boarder community.

It should be quite obvious from the development of the basin plan that another dam to furnish the objectives of the federal government is the way to go. The facts are that the existing storages provide the needs of the environment in average years, therefore a extra dam for the environment can be saved for those dry times, not impacting on rural communities and future food and fibre security. There is always the opportunity to fill the extra storages in wet years. We feel government in the past have focussed on cuts rather than being visionry and catering for the future.

There are several opportunities and potential sites in the basin to faciliate water storages but first the will from government has to be there. Surely in the current phase of the basin plan it would be easy to get such a proposal over the line and accepted by the city folk. We all have to realise that we can't all have it our own way, we look to government to lead the way in these areas and not give in to these extreme groups.

It is a real concern from our area the increased potential flood risk due to the basin plan. The Wakool district is situated on the floodplain and considering the increased risks of flooding due to the activities of the Commonwealth Water Holders, we are completely exposed. Therefore a storage to mitigate flooding impacts, although a small impact it would benefit our area. This approach would have numerous benefits and create some degree of security for our area.

We have the potential through this process to really make a significant improvement to the prosperity to our region and New South Wales as a whole. The challenge to government is are they up to the task.