

**Submission  
No 43**

## **INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Mid-Western Regional Council

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23 July 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madam

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGE IN NSW**

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission to your Standing Committee in regard to the adequacy of water storage in NSW. The Mid-Western Regional Council strongly believes that there is inadequate water storage in NSW and further, Council believes that during times of prolonged drought the water systems of the Murray Darling Basin would be better managed with more dam storage facilities. New dam facilities have not been built in NSW for many decades. We are the driest continent in the world and it is time that both State and Federal Governments gave some long-term strategic thinking of how to better manage the limited capacity of water that is available in the Murray Darling River systems.

For example, Council believes that one of the options could be a new dam facility at Dixons Long point, which is halfway between Mudgee and Orange. Not only would this create water storage facilities, but it would also improve travelling times between the city of Orange and Mudgee township. Such a dam storage facility could also assist in water security for Orange and other townships close to the storage facilities.

There are many other options like this around NSW that should be considered. Council is aware that the development of dam facilities is expensive but the State Government must look at the long-term benefits of these storage facilities to the economy of the state. Dam facilities will last hundreds of years and so the return in investment can be very positive if considered in this light.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact me on (02) 6378 2850.

Yours sincerely

WARWICK L BENNETT  
GENERAL MANAGER