

**Submission
No 14**

INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW

Organisation: Williams River Care Association

Date received: 26/07/2012

WILLIAMS RIVER CARE ASSOCIATION INC.

-Caring for the Environment-

PO BOX 104 Clarence Town , NSW 2321

26/7/2012

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The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

RE: Adequate water storage for NSW - Maitland , Newcastle and Central Coast

In considering the adequate water storage and supply from Hunter Water, we would ask you not to forget the water harvesting opportunities from the Williams River Weir Pool.

The Williams River Weir Pool has been created by a weir at Seaham, to prevent sea salt mixing with the fresh water, and also to control the flow of water from the Williams River via the Chichester Dam. The weir was built by Hunter Water to augment the water held in Grahamstown Dam. The water from the Weir pool is pumped to the Grahamstown Dam via the Ballickera canal. Hunter Water then collects the water from Grahamstown dam and distributes it for the people of the Lower Hunter.

However, water cannot be pumped from the Weir Pool to the Grahamstown Dam if it is high in phosphorus or nitrogen. This is to prevent the build up of N and P in Grahamstown Dam and reduce the risk of a blue green algae outbreak.

Pumping opportunities from the Weir Pool need to be maximised to ensure all available water is stored in Grahamstown Dam.

It has been shown that increasing erosion in the Weir pool has caused the loss of the riparian vegetation which increases the opportunity for further erosion. The loss of stable banks and good riparian vegetation has been shown to have an adverse effect on water quality in any water system.

Any human activity in the Weir pool that contributes to erosion and loss of riparian vegetation should be halted. This will enable the riparian vegetation to re-establish and hence improve the quality of the water in the Weir pool.

Hunter Water has just engaged William Glamore, from the Water Research Laboratory, University of NSW, to conduct a survey of the Weir Pool and provide some recommendations to help reduce erosion in the Weir Pool.

We would ask that your committee looks at the recommendations from Mr Glamour and supports their introduction in the Weir Pool.

This should optimise the pumping opportunities and help ensure adequate water supply to the people of the lower Hunter Valley.

Regards,

Digby Rayward
Chairman
Williams River Care Association.