

**Submission  
No 17**

## **INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION**

**Organisation:** Griffith City Council

**Date received:** 17 June 2016

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In reply quote:

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

17 June 2016

Hon Robert Brown MLC  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

### **GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION – INQUIRY INTO THE AUGMENTATION OF WATER SUPPLY FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES**

Griffith City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into the Augmentation of Water Supply for Rural and Regional New South Wales. Griffith City Council would like to address the following items in the inquiry:

*b) examine the suitability of existing New South Wales water storages and any future schemes for augmentation of water supply for New South Wales, including the potential for aquifer recharge:*

As part of the examination of water storages for NSW, Griffith City Council recommends that the Scheme for Diversion of the Clarence River Tributaries West to the Dumaresq River is considered. The concept of diverting river flows westward from high rainfall catchments in the Northern Rivers area in New South Wales and Queensland is not new. Various schemes have been proposed since 1981. One scheme in particular was prepared by Mr David D Coffey (BE FIEAust) Consulting Engineer, Sydney in August 1983. An abbreviated version of the report, also prepared by Mr Coffey in September 1984 is attached to the electronically lodged submission, the full report is provided separately as a hard copy via post.

The scheme does not only benefit land south of the Dumaresq River but can also provide flows into the Murray River which will reduce the need for Murray Darling Basin allocations being used for these flows and reinstate the original allocations to the basin.

*c) review the NSW Government's response to the recommendations of the June 2013 report by the Standing Committee on State Development on the adequacy of water storages in New South Wales*

As per part b) above

*e) examine technologies available to mitigate flood damage, including diversion systems, and the scope of infrastructure needed to support water augmentation, by diversion, for rural and regional New South Wales*

Griffith City Council's proposal outlined in part b) above would be beneficial to the mitigation of flooding in the Northern Coastal areas of New South Wales, in particular, catchments affected by the Clarence River flooding events.

h) the management, appropriateness, efficiency and reporting of:

i) any other related matter.

Griffith City Council would like a Return Flow Policy developed that would allow the re-crediting of water that is returned to a water source after being extracted under license. The provision exists under Sect 75 of the Water Management Act 2000, however this provision has not been enacted to date.

Yours sincerely,

**CR JOHN DAL BROI**  
**EMERITUS MAYOR**