

SUBMISSION

Productivity Commission - National Water Reform 2026: Preliminary assessment

July 2026



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Introduction

The irrigated agriculture sector in Australia is a good news story and part of the Australian identity. The gross value of the irrigation industry in NSW in 2021 was \$4.4 billion and irrigated agriculture produces 30% of all Australian production, from only 5% of tilled lands. Australia is a world leader in sustainable and water efficient agricultural production.¹

This is the fourth statutory review of national water reform progress against the National Water Initiative (NWI). Since the NWI Framework was established in 2004, water policy reform has been in a constant state of change, steadily transforming the operating environment of the irrigated agriculture sector.

Australia is considered a world leading authority on water policy with its water law and regulatory frameworks, underpinned by the water market. The Murray–Darling Basin is one of the most sophisticated and tightly regulated water management systems in the world. Irrigators have also driven significant efficiency gains – often at their own cost or alongside targeted government investment – in response to reduced water entitlements.

Yet the irrigated agriculture sector cannot sustain the level of innovation required to withstand impacts from snowballing government reform agendas – agendas that continue to grow in size, rate and ultimately negative impact to industry.

Government support measures for Australian agriculture are the second lowest for any developed nation on earth, or sixth lowest in the world², operating under stringent regulatory frameworks while adapting to climate pressures, and continuing to supply local and global supply of quality food and fibre. Irrigation has done the heavy lifting in water reform over the last three decades; governments must consolidate the environmental gains made over this timeframe and match its environmental water use efficiency to the global best-practice water use efficiencies demonstrated by the irrigated agriculture sector.

¹ NSW Irrigators Council (2023). <https://www.nswic.org.au/nsw-irrigation/>.

² OECD (2025, October 30). Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2025. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/agricultural-policy-monitoring-and-evaluation-2025_a80ac398-en/full-report/developments-in-agricultural-policies-and-support-by-country_411a0245.html.



NSW Irrigators' Council Responses

1. Overall Feedback

Reference Questions:

- Are there any other important developments, reforms or outcomes since 2024 that should inform the final assessment?
- What has your experience been with the key updates provided by jurisdictions (tables below), and what outcomes have been achieved?

Recommendations:

- NSW government to perform annual cumulative impact assessments and individual regulatory impact statements for each project, to quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate the impact of water policy reform.

The context and operating environment of NSW water planning and management has shifted and is characterised by intense and overlapping policy activity, with limited consolidation or sequencing across reforms. The governance foundation on which the NWI was established has been replaced by a new baseline; water planning for the future must recognise the benefits and constraints of the current policy settings and use this to inform future-focussed decision making.

NSW water governance decision making has been shaped by reform. The impacts of these constant changes are not in isolation; while each body of work is completed individually, the impacts are felt simultaneously. The 2026 reform program has included;

- Implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (Cth)
- Implementation of new water pricing charges for all WaterNSW customers (NSW)
- Amendments to the metering framework measurements standards (NSW)
- Amendments to of floodplain management planning processes (NSW)
- Amendments to regulated, unregulated and groundwater water sharing plans (NSW)
- Development of new connectivity program (NSW)
- Development of new minimum inflows program (NSW)
- Development of new numeric LTAAELs program (NSW)
- Development of new sustainable LTAAELs program (extra to numeric LTAAEL) (NSW)

Further reform is imminent, for example the review of the Water Act 2007 (Cth) and proposed adoption of the National Water Agreement (Cth).

The 2026 reform program alone demonstrates the need for state governments to perform annual cumulative impact assessment and individual regulatory impact statements for each project, to quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate the impact of these reforms on regional water users. It is evident that the scope of some projects are duplicative, and the recommendations developed in isolation will result in cumulative impact on water security and reliability, the cost of business, administrative burden for users, and resource and regulatory burden on agencies. Farming businesses are structurally changing their operations in response to the quickly shifting operating environment. The resilience and margins continue to be eroded as cumulative reforms are implemented on ground. The rate of reform must be slowed if industry is to be supported.



2. Water access entitlements and planning frameworks (section 3)

Reference Questions:

- Which jurisdictions have developed clear triggers for rebalancing environmental and consumptive uses? What triggers have been implemented and are they effective at rebalancing environmental and consumptive uses?
- What improvements to monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on water plans are needed to support adaptive management?
- Have jurisdictions taken effective actions to address the overallocation or overuse of water systems and meet environmental and other public benefit outcomes?
- What major interception activities are not licensed or adequately recorded?

Recommendations:

- Productivity Commission to acknowledge that 'over-allocation' and 'rebalancing' of water resources have been achieved in NSW. The focus now is to ensure water resources are used efficiently for each purpose.
- NSW government to improve information transparency and consultation timeframes for water sharing plan reviews.

Efficient water use for environmental and consumptive purposes

The persistent political narrative of water management and irrigated agriculture fails to recognise the significant reforms of the past decades. Ultimately, this narrative jeopardises progress on future reforms, by perpetuating outdated priorities such as water recovery from farmers in NSW.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan (Basin Plan) has achieved sustainable balance in the Murray-Darling Basin. Even by conservative assumptions, in April 2026 the Basin Plan had delivered at least 2,530GL water for the environment, with likely outcomes exceeding 2,700GL³. Overall, around one in three litres of water previously used for irrigation has been returned to the environment, if pre-Basin reforms are also included. It is likely that these figures understate actual water use, given uncredited and opaque reductions under NSW water sharing plans.

Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDL) are established and being met. The original SDL of 2,075GL (excluding SDLAM offsets) is largely in effect, with just 15.7GL remaining to "Bridge the Gap". This represents 99% of the water recovery that was planned for in the original Basin Plan. Groundwater recovery is also largely complete, with over 92% of the 38.45GL target purchased.⁴

In 2023, NSWIC analysed diversions in inland regulated rivers between 2010-11 and 2021-22. Diverted water includes water for irrigation, towns and other uses, while non-diverted water includes operational and all other environmental water. Figure 1 (see next page) shows that as of 2023, more than two-thirds of water from regulated rivers remain non-diverted.

³ NSW Irrigators Council (2026, May). Submission: Basin Plan Review. https://www.nswic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NSWIC-Submission-Basin-Plan-Review_May-2026.pdf

⁴ DCCEE (2026, May 19). Progress on Murray-Darling Basin water recovery. <https://www.dccew.gov.au/water/policy/water-recovery/progress>

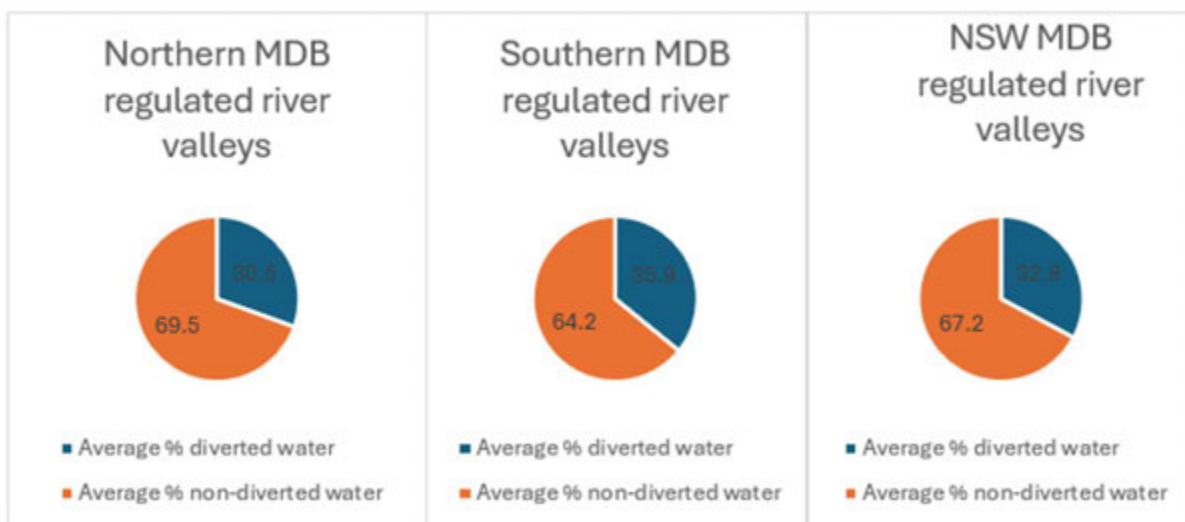


Figure 1. Share of diverted vs. undiverted water in the regulated NSW rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin. Source: WaterNSW Water Insights Portal.

Due to water reforms since 1997, the volume of water diverted for irrigation, industry and towns continues to decline. This has improved drought resilience and delivered more water to key environmental sites. Based on an assumption of a total water recovery figure of 2,709GL for the Basin Plan, diversions account for just 25% of total Basin inflows.⁵

NSW no longer needs to 'rebalance' by reappportioning water between environmental and consumptive uses, or address 'over-allocation and over-use' of water in systems. These efforts have been successfully completed and achieved positive environmental outcomes. For example, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) delivers an average of 2,000GL of water allocations per year. The impact of flows can be significant, reaching 28,500km of Murray Darling Basin waterways, inundating 470,000 hectares of freshwater habitat, supporting 11 internationally significant wetlands. In the 2025-26 water year, CEWH carried out several key activities including spring flows, spring freshes to support native fish movement and breeding, co-ordinated summer flows to support native fish, supported drought flows and autumn flows to support riverbank health and fish movement across valleys in NSW.⁶

Water recovery of this scope has left its social and economic mark. Irrigation-dependent industries are fundamentally shifting in structure as livelihoods and regional communities have been disrupted. This is the current reality of the Basin Plan, even if decision-makers do not acknowledge it. For this reason, it is imperative that water management priorities shift to how water can be optimally utilised by each water user. Efficient use and environmental outcomes must be the focus, not reaching volumetric targets.

In a fiscally constrained environment, reform must be targeted to achieve environmental outcomes, deliver clear ecological outcomes, and ensure irrigators have room to manage compounding cost pressures, including rising water and fuel and fertiliser prices, to protect and ensure a future irrigation industry.

⁵ This assumes 2079GL will have been returned to the environment, based on the baseline diversion figure of 10890GL including in original Basin Plan figures.

⁶ Information presented by CEWH to NSWIC in July 2026.



Monitoring and evaluating NSW water sharing plans

Information transparency

NSWIC submits that improvements to information transparency would improve the evaluation and reporting on NSW water sharing plans (WSP). Every 10 years, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) perform an initial assessment to review how well a WSP has contributed to environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes, and whether changes are needed to improve outcomes.⁷ Findings are reported to the Minister for Water to inform their decision to either extend or remake the WSP. The NRCs recommendations shape future public consultation by NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW-DCCEEW).

While stakeholders from the irrigated agriculture sector participate in consultation with NRC, the information provided to and collated by the NRC is not published publicly until after a final report is provided to the Minister. Data collect by NRC is not transparent and a lack of common baseline data makes it difficult for stakeholders to determine if the WSP is achieving all its stated outcomes. Stakeholders have little opportunity to give the NRC feedback on its recommendations before they are considered by the Minister. At times, NSW-DCCEEW suggests implementing all NRC recommendations regardless of practicality; often at cost to water agencies and water user resources. This leads to cost blowouts and delayed implementation.

Additionally, the NSW-DCCEEW work program seeks to address a number of 'knowledge gaps' present in water sharing plans. For example, coastal sustainable extraction project seeks to *"better understand sustainable extraction in coastal systems by developing a framework that uses best available environmental, cultural, economic and social inputs"*⁸, and the minimum inflow project will *"review the water that flows into dams during drought and may adjust how much water is set aside in dams to meet high-priority needs under a future climate conditions."*⁹ Information from modelling information (e.g., proposed LTAAELs) should be made transparent to stakeholders for evaluation and feedback prior to amendment of WSP rules.

Improved consultation timeframes

The NSW Guide to Better Regulation identifies that *"consultation with business and the community should inform regulatory development"*, with a minimum of 28 days for consultation on draft regulation.¹⁰ NSWIC submits that WSP consultation should extended beyond a 28 days period, and incorporate:

- Early and regular engagement with targeted stakeholders from irrigated agriculture;
- Multiple opportunities for engagement – for example during options development, development of the draft plan, and development of the final plan;
- Clear documentation via a tracked changes document or a comprehensive factsheet that links the original plan to changes made in the proposed plan; and
- Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) to articulate the qualitative and quantitative impact of proposed changes across environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes.

⁷ As required under section 43A of the Water Management Act 2000

⁸ NSW-DCCDEEW (2026, June 30). Coastal sustainable extraction project. <https://www.water.nsw.gov.au/our-work/plans-and-strategies/water-sharing-plans/coastal-sustainable-extraction-project>

⁹ NSW-DCCEEW (2026, May 4). Minimum Inflows Project. <https://www.water.dcccew.nsw.gov.au/our-work/projects-and-programs/minimum-inflows-project>

¹⁰ NSW Treasury (2019, January). NSW Government Guide to Better Regulation. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-11/TPP19-01-guide-to-better-regulation.pdf>



Interception activities

NSWIC submits that NSW has licenced floodplain harvesting (FPH) and is making sound progress on achieving full compliance with metering this form of take. Collection of interception data does not have major issues, although there are some practical barriers beyond the control of water users associated with measuring this take. While interception statistics are based on models, government's understanding and measurement of this form of take has improved considerably.

Floodplain harvesting

FPH licences are fully issued in all northern Basin valleys, barring the Namoi regulated where the FPH licencing rollout has now begun. NRAR report 63% of works are FPH compliant (with 13% in progress). While there is opportunity for improvement, NRAR acknowledges that *“overall, progress has been good”* particularly *“during a time when many famers have faced challenging dry conditions.”*¹¹

There are important caveats for this compliance data:

- Licences were opt-out; some users are unaware of their obligations to de-register FPH works if they have no immediate intention of using them.
- NRAR figures do not show data according to volume of entitlements, in three categories (non-compliant, in progress or compliant).
- 74% are compliant or on the pathway to comply (63% compliant and 13% progressing).
- Water users experienced recognised barriers to FPH compliance, including hardware issues, shortages of duly qualified persons (DQP), poor government databases hampering the speed of works classifications, and delays from weather conditions.¹²

Overall, FPH licencing is progressing. NRAR is proactively engaging in education on water user obligations and enforcing non-compliance. Despite implementation challenges, FPH water take is licenced and in line with take under the SDL.

Interception data

In NSW, forms of water take under 'interceptions' include water intercepted before reaching the watercourse, primarily farm dams and forestry. Take is modelled and included in resource assessments. Measurement of this take has improved significantly¹³; while uncertainties remain, current models are well calibrated and accurately capture runoff volumes.

In NSW, projects are focussed on reviewing long-term annual average extraction limits (LTAAEL). To establishing a numeric LTAAEL for all NSW WSPs, NSW-DCCEEW is undertaking an assessment of different forms of take, including interception activities. This interception data is incorporated into resource assessments in NSW and is recorded in all data for water take.

¹¹ NRAR (2026, May 18). Floodplain dam compliance climbs to 63%, with stronger enforcement ahead.

<https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/news/floodplain-dam-compliance-climbs-to-63,-with-stronger-enforcement-ahead>

¹² For example, in the Barwon-Darling, NSWIC has spoken to DQs who have been planning on installing measurement devices on storages, but it is not safe to do so until dams are completely empty. Given the generally wet conditions over the last few years, they have been unable to do so.

¹³ MDBA (2024, November). Runoff dam impacts in the Murray Darling Basin.

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/SY-Runoff%20dam%20impacts%20in%20the%20Murray%E2%80%9393Darling%20Basin.pdf>



3. Integrated management of water for environmental and other public benefit outcomes (section 6)

Reference Questions:

- Are the environmental and other public benefit outcomes set out in existing water plans consistent with community expectations of planning process? If not, how could current water plan review processes be improved to better reflect community expectations?
- Are environmental and other public benefit outcomes effectively specified to facilitate accountability in water management? How could accountability for outcomes be improved?

Recommendations:

- NSW government to develop and publish regulatory impact statement to quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate the impact of changes proposed by each water sharing plan remake.

In NSW, accountability and planning are governed primarily by WSP audits and reviews. WSPs share water between purposes including irrigation, town water supply, the environment and Aboriginal interests. Stakeholders provide input to the NRC who review the WSP prior to NSW-DCCEEW remaking or extending the WSP. NSW-DCCEEW submits annual monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) reports against WSP outcomes.

This process adequately identifies where plans have not met expectations or could be improved. However, NSWIC submits that NRC audits do not equally assess economic outcomes, compared to environmental, social, cultural outcomes. For example, in five WSP reviews, NRC put forward only one recommendation relating to economic outcomes (improving trade in the Murrumbidgee regulated river).¹⁴ This skews WSP remakes toward environmental outcomes, at the expense of economic and social outcomes for the regional communities impacted.

The ideal process for integrating knowledge and ensuring accountability is a clear and thorough consultation process. Issues observed during the remake of inland unregulated WSPs in 2024-25 were driven by a lack of engagement opportunities and insufficient consultation timelines. The WSPs were finalised nearly one year after the initial WSP lapse date, after major issues with the proposed changes to wetland mapping and cease to pump conditions on water licences emerged. These issues could have been resolved through the ground truthing of wetlands during well times and meaningful engagement with users impacted by cease to pump changes.

NSWIC submits that governments should require a regulatory impact statement (RIS) to ensure decision makers have evaluated the changes proposed under WSP remakes. NSWIC submits that the majority of changes are not subject to clear cost-benefit analysis and consequently expose water users to constant changes to access rules. Water user operations are reliant on consistent access to water within their water source and prefer stability in water access rules, which is not reflected in the current arrangements.

¹⁴ These were the Namoi, Macquarie, Lachlan, Gwydir Murray and Murrumbidgee regulated WSP



4. Water resource accounting (section 7)

Reference Questions:

- Is information about how to access water allocations provided in a timely, transparent and easy to understand way that enables entitlement holders to make informed water-use decisions? How could the provision of information be improved?
- What additional information, if any, about planned or rules-based environmental water would increase public and investor confidence in reporting on water available for consumptive use or for environmental and other public benefits?

Recommendations:

- NSW government to develop a public register that shows all past rules changes that have impacted the consumptive pool.
- NSW government to publish expected impacts to availability for consumptive water for any prospective rule change.

NSWIC submits that NWI Principle 40, iii) has not been fully applied in NSW. Principle 40 states:

40. In the implementation of water plans, the Parties will, consistent with the nature and intensity of resource use:

- i) monitor the performance of water plan objectives, outcomes and water management arrangements;*
- ii) factor in knowledge improvements as provided for in the plans; and*
- iii) provide regular public reports. The reporting will be designed to help water users and governments to manage risk, and be timed to give **early indications of possible changes to the consumptive pool.***¹⁵

Changes to the consumptive pool are often driven by rules-based changes within WSPs in NSW. General security users are last to be allocated water and are most at risk of bearing the impacts of management changes. For example, the creation of special purposes access licences (SPAL) under Ministerial discretion can create high-priority access licences that reduce the volume of water available to lower priority users (i.e., general security licences).

NSWIC observes that the impact of rule changes are not well publicised. For example, the 2026 Omnibus Order made by the NSW Minister for Water changed access rules for FPH. FPH water can only be taken when active storage at Menindee Lakes is at 250GL (compared to the previous 195GL rule)¹⁶. On aggregate, opportunities for FPH have been diminished, impacting water availability. To date, NSW has not published information about this change to inform users on reductions to water use or impact to consumptive pool.

Recent changes to cease to pump (CTP) triggers in several unregulated WSPs have made water access more difficult for users on the affected systems. Water access has been reduced, but

¹⁵ Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative (2024).
<https://www.dcccew.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/water/Intergovernmental-Agreement-on-a-national-water-initiative.pdf>

¹⁶ NSW-DCCEW (2026). Water sharing plans omnibus amendment order.
<https://www.water.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-01/wsp-omnibus-amendment-2026.pdf>



NSW-DCCEEW has not published data on the known impacts to the consumptive pool.¹⁷ NSWIC recorded a number of other recent changes in a recent NSW Parliamentary Inquiry.¹⁸

Moreover, no register outlines the cumulative impacts from rules changes, despite WSP amendments that reduce water access being commonplace. NSWIC submit that states have an obligation to provide, in clear terms, all water access impacts. Impacts should be articulated during consultation, and on a public register if brought into effect. A well-publicised register that shows all cumulative changes and the impact on the overall consumptive pool is an important part of improving confidence in water reporting.

NSWIC observe that under the NWI, governments may be obliged to compensate users if access is reduced beyond a certain threshold within the life of a WSP. The absence of a database on cumulative impacts to the consumptive pool mean that users and agencies are unaware of the volume of water removed. This prevents stakeholders from recognising when the government as an obligation to provide compensation. This is a fundamental step in increasing transparency of water management.

5. Knowledge and capacity building (section 9) and water interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (section 11)

Reference Questions:

- What progress, if any, have jurisdictions made in enhancing protection for and recognition of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property in water management?
- What changes can jurisdictions make to better incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges in water management?
- Which changes to governance arrangements, if any, have led to shared decision making and increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in planning processes?
- How have governance changes improved the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander water interests and rights in water management and planning?

Recommendations:

- NSW to ensure water licences must retain their original associated rights, obligations and rules and be subject to the same measurement and enforcement requirements.
- NSW to ensure stakeholder knowledge is assessed on its own evidential merits, within existing institutions and processes for transparency and collaboration.

NSWIC submit that the NSW Government are seeking to build knowledge and capacity to plan and manage water resources well. This is being progressed through NSW-DCCEEWs large work program (see listed in section 1. Overall Feedback) across inland and coastal water sources.

¹⁷ NSW-DCCEEW (2026, April 2). Proposed revised access rules for water sharing plans.

<https://www.water.dcccew.nsw.gov.au/our-work/plans-and-strategies/water-sharing-plans/public-exhibition-and-comment-sought-water-2>

¹⁸ NSWIC (2025, April 14). Submission: Impacts of the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Act 2023 on NSW regional communities. <https://www.nswic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Impacts-of-the-Water-Amendment-NSWIC-Submission-Final.pdf>



Recommendations from improved knowledge and capacity building projects should integrate with existing planning and entitlement frameworks. Outcomes should preserve and protect the property right of water ownership; water licences must retain their original associated rights, obligations and rules and be subject to the same measurement and enforcement requirements. Government policy changes should not erode reliability or access of water entitlements without compensation.

NSWIC recognises and supports the traditional and cultural uses of water by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We submit that governments should take a holistic and coordinated approach when developing and implementing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander water programs, to avoid disjointed programs and strategies delivering suboptimal outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and unnecessary conflict with existing water property rights. Many communities in NSW with irrigated agriculture as a primary economic base also have a high proportion of the population identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. We have a shared vision to see improved socio-economic outcomes for our communities.

NSWIC sees opportunity for partnership-based models to be expanded in the Basin to achieve cultural objectives through use of environmental water. However, further work must be done to ensure all water users can be confident of the structure, scope and detail of these elements, objectives, and strategies. For example, the planning and entitlement frameworks must be upheld in the allocation of water, and assurance must be provided that additional entitlement pools are not created. There is no 'new' water, and so water entitlements owned by First Nations must be purchased from the existing entitlements on issue.

NSWIC submits that decisions should be made openly and collaboratively with all stakeholders at the same table and stakeholder knowledge must be assessed on its own evidential merits. Decision-making should be performed within existing institutions and processes for transparency and collaboration. Processes that work in parallel to and separate from other groups do not lend themselves to consensus or trust.

Conclusion

NSWIC and our members are available at your convenience if you have any questions or would like any further information.



NSW Irrigators' Council

The NSW Irrigators' Council (NSWIC) is the peak body representing irrigation farmers and the irrigation farming industry in NSW. Our members include valley water user associations, food and fibre groups, irrigation corporations and commodity groups from the rice, cotton and horticultural industries.

Through our members, NSWIC represents over 12,000 water access licence holders in NSW who access regulated, unregulated and groundwater systems. NSWIC engages in advocacy and policy development on behalf of the irrigation farming sector. As an apolitical entity, the Council provides advice to all stakeholders and decision makers.

Irrigation farmers are stewards of tremendous local, operational and practical knowledge in water management. With more than 12,000 irrigation farmers in NSW, a wealth of knowledge is available. Participatory decision making and extensive consultation ensure this knowledge can be incorporated into best-practice, evidence-based policy.

NSWIC and our members are a valuable way for Governments and agencies to access this knowledge. NSWIC offers the expertise from our network of irrigation farmers and organisations to ensure water management is practical, community-minded, sustainable and follows participatory process.

NSWIC sees this consultation as a valuable opportunity to provide expertise from our membership. Each member reserves the right to independent policy on issues that directly relate to their areas of operation, expertise or any other issues that they deem relevant.

NSW Irrigation Farming

Irrigation farmers in Australia are recognised as world leaders in water efficiency. For example, according to the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: "Australian cotton growers are now recognised as the most water-use efficient in the world and three times more efficient than the global average"¹⁹

"The Australian rice industry leads the world in water use efficiency. From paddock to plate, Australian grown rice uses 50% less water than the global average."²⁰

Our water management legislation prioritises all other users before agriculture (critical human needs, stock and domestic, and the environment), meaning our industry only has water access when all other needs are satisfied. Our industry supports and respects this order of prioritisation. Many common crops we produce are annual/seasonal crops that can be grown in wet years, and not grown in dry periods, in tune with Australia's variable climate.

Irrigation farming in Australia is also subject to strict regulations to ensure sustainable and responsible water use. This includes all extractions being capped at a sustainable level, a hierarchy of water access priorities, and strict measurement requirements.

¹⁹ DAFF. Cotton. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/crops/cotton>

²⁰ DAFF. Rice. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/crops/rice>