

# Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan

January 2017



CENTRAL NSW  
COUNCILS



Centroc's Mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional co-operation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources; effectively nurturing sustainable investment and infrastructure development.

[www.centroc.com.au](http://www.centroc.com.au)



5 January 2017

Reference kb:mm 010517  
Enquiries: Ms M Macpherson: 0427 451 085

Department of Primary Industries  
Locked Bag 5123  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

[macquarie-castlereagh.sw.wrp@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:macquarie-castlereagh.sw.wrp@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan- Surface Water**

Central NSW Councils (Centroc) represents over 243,000 people covering an area of more than 72,500sq kms comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Hilltops, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, and Central Tablelands Water.

It is about the same size as Tasmania with half the population and a similar GDP.

Centroc's vision is to be recognised as vital to the sustainable future of NSW and Australia.

Its mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional cooperation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources.

Centroc has two core objectives:

1. Regional Sustainability - Encourage and nurture suitable investment and infrastructure development throughout the region and support members in their action to seek from Governments financial assistance, legislative and/or policy changes and additional resources required by the Region.
2. Regional Cooperation and Resource Sharing – Contribute to measurable improvement in the operational efficiency and effectiveness of Member Councils through facilitation of the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources and, where appropriate, the aggregation of demand and buying power.

The Centroc Board is made up of the 30 Mayors and General Managers of its member Councils who determine priority for the region. These priorities are then progressed via sponsoring Councils. For more advice on Centroc programming and priorities, please go to our website <http://www.centroc.com.au>



Centroc was selected as one of five regional pilot Joint Organisations to assist the NSW Government strengthen and reform local government.

Centroc has a proud track record in devising and delivering innovative cutting-edge regional programming. It succeeds through the good will and industry of its members and staff working collaboratively to the benefit of the region and its communities.

Water security for the region's urban centres is one of the highest priorities for Central NSW Councils with long term water security vital to meet community needs and underpin confidence for continued investment and growth in the region.

Centroc members have been working collaboratively for many years to identify and plan a range of water security solutions completing its National award winning Centroc Water Security Study in 2009.

The Centroc Water Security Study found that security of water supply could not be achieved through Demand Management initiatives alone but requires an integrated program of water conservation and demand management measures, coupled with new and upgraded water supply and storage infrastructure particularly high in the Lachlan catchment.

In line with recommendations in the CWSS, Centroc members committed to a unified approach to the sustainable delivery of water supply and sewerage services and to achieve and maintain Best Practice forming the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance in 2009.

The Alliance provides support to member Councils in meeting Best Practice in water and sewer management and in achieving cost savings and efficiencies including in asset management and workforce training and development. It does this through a regional procurement program, mentoring, sharing of knowledge and resource sharing. Centroc also has a strong track record in grant acquisition and in the management of regional grant funded activities and is a tireless advocate for water security for the region.

Highlights of Centroc's and its member's strategic regional water planning work is summarised as follows:

- National Award Winning Centroc Water Security Study;
- Innovative state-of-the-art water security solutions including the Orange Stormwater harvesting scheme and other innovative water and sewer management projects including Bathurst's Manganese Removal Project;
- Over \$3M in State and Federal Funding secured since 2009 including \$2.2M in Federal funding for the CWUA's Nexus between Water and Energy Project – a \$4.5M project to reduce energy used at the region's pump stations including a Water Loss Management Toolkit rolled out to Councils throughout NSW;
- A collaborative Water Utilities Alliance comprising 15 member Councils delivering cost savings and efficiencies for members recognised by the Productivity Commission;
- Strategic Regional water planning through the completion of Regional IWCM, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan and the Centroc Water Security Study;
- Regional Priority Water Infrastructure Plan reflecting the priority for the region of large transformative water security projects;
- A Centroc Operators Group providing capacity building for operators recognised as industry leaders at the Water Industry Operators Association NSW Conference in 2016;

- A Working Party assisting members to implement Drinking Water Quality Management Plans;
- Delivery of Water Sampling and Australian Drinking Water Guideline training program for over 60 of the region's water operators; and
- Workforce Development Project for Water employees piloted by 5 CWUA member Councils identifying gaps between the current and future workforce needs and proposing actions to address these.

## **RESPONSE TO MACQUARIE-CASTLEREAGH WATER RESOURCE PLAN (SURFACE WATER) - STATUS AND ISSUES PAPER**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Status and Issues phase of the development of the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan (surface water).

Firstly, it must be said that the timeframe for response to this Status and Issues paper is disappointing. Released on 23 November, correspondence was not received by Centroc member Councils until 28 November with responses to be considered when Councils are short staffed over the Christmas/New Year period for submission on 11 January.

Centroc has advocated for some time to be a partner with the State Government in strategic regional water planning. As detailed above, the Centroc region is well advanced in its thinking on water planning and continues to advocate for improved planning in this area.

Through its Joint Organisation Pilot, highly successful Water Utilities Alliance and drawing on its maturity in water security, Centroc has advocated to work in partnership with Government to co-design a regional water planning framework that better aligns Local, Regional and State Planning processes delivering optimal outcomes for our communities and good value investment by Government in water security infrastructure.

At meetings with Mr Gavin Hanlon, Deputy Director General on 15 September 2015 and Minister Niall Blair in May 2015, November 2015 and again in May 2016 and in correspondence, Centroc has sought clarification of the NSW Government's Strategic Framework for Water Planning, in particular, opportunities for engagement with Central NSW Councils.

It is noted that DPI Water have now developed a *Delivering Water Resource Plans for New South Wales Roadmap 2016-2019* (October 2016) which sets out the way forward in developing the 22 water resource plans (WRPs) required for NSW by 2019.

The *Roadmap* outlines the NSW Government's key principles for water resource plans in line with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray –Darling Basin, the National Water Initiative and the Water Management Act 2000 the foundational principles of which include that:

- WRPs will be based on extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community
- WRPs will balance social, economic and environmental needs of the community and catchments.
- Stakeholder Advisory Panels will guide the development of the surface water WRPs.

It is disappointing that despite inter-governmental collaboration being one of the three core activities the State Government has determined for Joint Organisations, Local Government in the Central NSW region has not as yet been included in targeted consultations that, according to the Roadmap and DPI Water website, have already occurred in relation to Water Sharing Plans for the inland plans.

Further to this, it would appear that Central NSW Councils are not represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Panels (SAP) established in either the Macquarie-Castlereagh or Lachlan surface water areas for water resource planning.

The elected representatives that comprise the Centroc Board are the voice of local communities in this region and well placed to ensure their communities' needs are considered in any review of water resource planning as it impacts on the Central NSW region.

In light of the above, the Centroc Board resolved (August 2016) to write to DPI Water seeking a targeted stakeholder session with Centroc representatives on the review of the Water Sharing Plans as they impact on the Macquarie and Lachlan catchments. A copy of this correspondence (18 October) and response from the Deputy Director General, DPI Water (received 16 December) is provided as attachment 1.

As detailed in the Deputy Director General's response, DPI Water will offer stakeholders a number of opportunities to engage in the planning process by calling for public submissions on specific issues including through the request for submissions to the Status and Issues paper the subject of this submission.

While Centroc welcomes this opportunity, it is unclear from this Status and Issues paper what the opportunities for engagement are given that for the majority of issues included in the paper options and modelling either have been, or are being, discussed with the Stakeholder Advisory Panels with no details provided on what these are. Other issues are marked as resolved, not to be investigated further or subject to other reports and Plans being drafted, for example the NSW Policy Pre-requisite Implementation Plan, Long Term Watering Plan and Risk Assessment for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Surface Water Resources. Refer to the table summarising the status of issues detailed in the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan (Surface Water) - Status and Issues Paper with Centroc's response provided as attachment 2.

Centroc has requested copies of separate technical assessments referred to on page 15 of the Status and issues paper specifically the Risk Assessment for the Macquarie – Castlereagh Surface Water Resources. Currently these are unavailable.

This raises the question - is this a consultation or an opportunity to tell us what is happening? How, for instance, are stakeholders going to be informed of the options being considered by the Strategic Advisory Panel?

In line with Centroc Board resolve and building on this regions extensive work in water security, Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so. We reiterate our request for Central NSW Councils representation on the SAP and for targeted consultation with Centroc member Councils impacted by the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has openly acknowledged that the biggest issue encountered in Basin Planning previously was the lack of engagement with stakeholders representing urban water and the balance with economic and environmental needs.

While urban water needs are of the highest priority for Central NSW Councils and it is understood that demand for water is subject to an access regime, which sets priorities for various types of demand (i.e. environmental water, town water, high security and general purpose licences), Local Government in this

region is interested in ensuring an appropriate balance of socio-economic and environmental water needs has broad based acceptance.

As the NSW Government Roadmap proposes a triple – bottom-line approach to the Murray Darling Basin Plan which puts local communities first – we’re keen to understand how DPI Water plan to engage with communities in our region to ensure this balance is achieved.

In conclusion, Centroc requests:

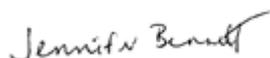
- More realistic consultation timeframes that provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement in water resource planning;
- Representation by Local Government on the Strategic Advisory Panels;
- Targeted consultation with Centroc member Councils impacted by the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan.

Again, Centroc offers to work in partnership with Government to co-design a regional water planning framework that better aligns Local, Regional and State Planning processes delivering optimal outcomes for our communities ensuring an appropriate balance of socio-economic and environmental water needs.

We look forward to working with DPI Water on a targeted consultation session as outlined in correspondence from the Deputy Director General (received 16 December).

If you require further information or clarification on comments in this submission please contact Ms Meredith Macpherson, Program Manager , Centroc Water Utilities Alliance at [meredith.macpherson@centroc.com.au](mailto:meredith.macpherson@centroc.com.au) or on 0427 451 085.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Bennett  
**Executive Officer**  
**Central NSW Councils (Centroc)**

18 October 2016

Reference: bwmm 101816  
Enquiries: Ms J Bennett: 0428 690 935

Mr Gavin Hanlon  
Deputy Director General (Water)  
Department of Primary Industries  
Locked Bag 5123  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr Hanlon,

**Centroc engagement in the development of a Water Resource Plan for the Lachlan and Macquarie Catchments**

Further to previous correspondence dated 25 March 2015 and subsequent discussions including with the Minister, Niall Blair (May 2015, November 2015, May 2016) and Ms Alison Morgan, Department of Premier and Cabinet, I write again to seek engagement by DPI Water with Central NSW Councils (Centroc) in Regional Water Planning, specifically the development of Water Resource Plans.

It is noted that DPI Water have now developed a *Delivering Water Resource Plans for New South Wales Roadmap 2016-2019* dated October 2016 which sets out the way forward in developing the 22 water resource plans (WRPs) required for NSW by 2019.

The *Roadmap* outlines the NSW Government's key principles for water resource plans in line with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray –Darling Basin, the National Water Initiative and the Water Management Act 2000 the foundational principles of which include that:

- WRPs will be based on extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community
- WRPs will balance social, economic and environmental needs of the community and catchments.
- Stakeholder Advisory Panels will guide the development of the surface water WRPs.

As you know Central NSW Councils (Centroc) has undertaken extensive work on water security for the Central NSW region through its 2009 Centroc Water Security Study and most recently its prioritisation of regional water security infrastructure completed in collaboration with RDA Central West.

Water Security for the communities of Central NSW, particularly security of supply that balances urban water needs with economic and environmental needs is of the highest priority for the Centroc Board.

Through its Joint Organisation Pilot, highly successful Water Utilities Alliance and drawing on its maturity in water security, Centroc has advocated to work in partnership with Government to co-design a regional water planning framework that better aligns Local, Regional and State Planning processes delivering optimal outcomes for our communities and good value investment by the Government in water security infrastructure.

In consideration of advice on the DPI Water website that targeted consultation has already occurred in relation to Water Sharing Plans for the inland plans and that Stakeholder Advisory Panels have been established in the Lachlan, Gwydir and Macquarie surface water areas for water resource planning, the Centroc Board resolved on 26 August to write to DPI Water seeking a targeted stakeholder session with Centroc representatives on the review of the Water Sharing Plans as they impact on the Lachlan and Macquarie catchments.

With the subsequent release of the Roadmap where it is stated that preparation and work with Stakeholder Advisory Panels for the Lachlan and Macquarie surface areas commenced in July 2016 and are scheduled for completion at the end of October, Centroc is concerned to ensure engagement with DPI Water in any discussions with regard to water resource planning as it impacts on the Central NSW region.

This Regional Organisation of Councils speaks for over 243,000 people covering an area of more than 72,500sq kms comprising Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow City, Mid Western, Oberon, Orange City, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, and Young Councils and Central Tablelands County Council.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has openly acknowledged that the biggest issue encountered in Basin Planning previously was the lack of engagement with stakeholders representing urban water and the balance with economic and environmental needs.

As the NSW Government Roadmap proposes a triple –bottom-line approach to the Murray Darling Basin Plan which puts local communities first – we're keen to understand how DPI Water plan to engage with communities in our region and to offer support in ensuring an appropriate balance of social-economic and environmental water needs that has broad based acceptance.

Representing over 243,000 people across an area of more than 72,500sq kms in the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Hilltops, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid Western, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin ,Young and Central Tablelands Water, Centroc is the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW communities. The elected representatives that comprise the Centroc Board are the voice of local communities in this region and well placed to ensure their communities' needs are considered in any review of water resource planning as it impacts on the Central NSW region.

Please advise who we should contact at DPI Water to seek engagement on the development of water resource plans as they impact our region.

Please contact our Executive Officer Ms Jennifer Bennett on 0428 690 935 if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Bill West  
Chair  
Central NSW Councils (Centroc)



OUT16/39663

Mr Bill West  
Central NSW Councils  
PO Box 333  
Forbes NSW 2871

RECEIVED  
16 DEC 2016

BY:.....

Dear Mr West

### Engagement in development of Lachlan and Macquarie plans

Thank you for your letter of 18 October 2016 concerning Centroc engagement in the development of the water resource plans (WRPs) for the Lachlan and Macquarie.

I appreciate your desire to participate in the development of the Lachlan and Macquarie water resource plans, particularly given that one of your highest priorities is providing Central NSW with a secure water supply.

One of the key principles for the development of water resource plans is extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community. DPI Water will offer stakeholders a number of opportunities to engage in the planning process by calling for public submissions on specific issues, undertaking targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups and through Stakeholder Advisory Panels.

A Status and Issues document was released for both the Lachlan and Macquarie surface water resource plans on 23 November 2016. This document outlines the context for plan development, the status of the water resources, and known issues to be considered during the development of the plan. You can download a copy of both documents at the DPI Water website: <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-resource-plans>

DPI Water is writing to all stakeholders to announce the availability of this document. The department will also call for submissions on the issues listed in the document or any additional issues stakeholders perceive need addressing during the water resource planning process.

I am pleased that Centroc are taking a proactive approach towards WRP development. I have arranged for Ms Tracey Brownbill, Team Leader Water Planning South and Mr Dave Miller, Team Leader Water Planning North to assist you with your request for a targeted consultation session.

Ms Brownbill may be contacted at DPI Water's Albury office on ((02) 6024 8870 whilst Mr Miller may be contacted at DPI Water's Kempsey office on (02) 6561 4973.

As always, I would welcome to the opportunity to meet with your group again in person should you have further concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hanlon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Gavin Hanlon**  
**Deputy Director General, DPI Water**  
**25/11/2016**

MACQUARIE-CASTLEREAGH WATER RESOURCE PLAN- SURFACE WATER ISSUES FOR COMMENT		
ISSUES	STATUS	CENTROC COMMENT
<b>Issues identified by Aboriginal communities</b>		
<p>The term “cultural flows” is identified by all Basins’ Aboriginal Nations as an essential entitlement. Although cultural flows are often viewed as being similar to environmental flows, they provide social, spiritual, cultural and economic benefits that can’t be satisfied by environmental flows or specific purpose Aboriginal cultural water licences. Cultural and economic flows need to be considered as an entitlement within the WSP and WRP.</p>	<p>No provisions for cultural flow entitlement in the WSP or WRP.</p>	<p>Centroc has no policy position in regard to this issue.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve- Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>As a general comment Centroc has extensive experience and maturity in water resource planning in the Central NSW region and is well connected across communities to ensure communication is undertaken with appropriate stakeholder groups.</p> <p>As the NSW Government Roadmap proposes a triple –bottom-line approach to the Murray Darling Basin Plan which puts local communities first – we’re keen to understand how DPI Water</p>

		<p>plan to engage with communities in our region and to offer support in ensuring an appropriate balance of social-economic and environmental water needs that has broad based acceptance.</p>
<p>Aboriginal Community Development Licences - The current Aboriginal Community Development water licence provisions are not equitable in general for Aboriginal people across NSW. There are no real opportunities for Aboriginal people to access water for economic use within the surface sources within the Basin. There needs to be real opportunities that deliver real benefits for Aboriginal people that allow Aboriginal people to become involved in the water market, and create employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>These licences may only be issued in coastal river systems, subject to the relevant water sharing plan providing for applications to be made.</p>	<p>Centroc has no policy position in regard to this issue.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>Constraints in the uptake of water licences - Aboriginal people do not have the capacity to access the water in terms of water infrastructure and cost of water licensing. This has made it impossible for Aboriginal communities to take up water licensing opportunities. In terms of funding to purchase water license and water infrastructure - mostly all Aboriginal land councils and individuals have land that they wish to develop, but find it impossible to purchase water licences due to lack of funds. The creation of the</p>	<p>Aboriginal communities/individuals have no or limited capacity or the funding to enter into the water market.</p>	<p>Centroc has no policy position in regard to this issue.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW region are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18</p>

<p>water market has added to these difficulties. Aboriginal communities are seeking support in terms of waivering the cost of water licenses and looking at additional opportunities for 'excess' water.</p>		<p>October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>Critical human water needs - Aboriginal remote communities have no access to basic drinking water. Many communities in the basin have issues with accessing water for basic human needs to maintain health, hygiene and wellbeing. The current state of water quality in many systems does not provide water of reasonable health standard for a number of reasons including fertilizer and sediment run-off, various forms of pollution, bank erosion and riparian zone clearing.</p>	<p>Current water quality across the WRP area is not sufficient for human consumption direct from the surface water source</p>	<p>Centroc has no policy position with regard drinking water for remote Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>It does however maintain that access to safe drinking water is a human right.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>Water Quality issues are impacting on the health and reproduction of cultural food resources e.g. fish are covered in "sore" spots – water quality is also significantly important to spiritual and ceremonial sites and the general health of the river system.</p>	<p>Limited data for the WRP processes to address water quality considerations regarding Aboriginal values and uses</p>	<p>While Centroc has no specific policy position 10 Centroc member Councils including those in the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Plan area- Bathurst, Orange, Lithgow, Oberon are members of the Central West Councils Environment &amp; Waterways Alliance.</p>

		<p>The Alliance exists to improve environmental outcomes across the region including water quality issues that impact on the general health of the waterways and rivers including Coxes, Fish, Macquarie, Castlereagh, Bogan, Lachlan, Cudgegong Rivers and their many tributaries.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cwcewa.com.au/about-us/">http://www.cwcewa.com.au/about-us/</a></p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>Regulated Systems -Water licence delivery volumes and extraction timeframes have impacts on community access to water and use of water. Large licences result in large delivery volumes. Then the large capacity of some pumps often results in the flow quickly disappearing. This inconsistency in flows adds to the difficulty for general enjoyment and social benefit of the system. What data is there to demonstrate</p>	<p>Potential for WRP risk assessment to consider</p>	<p>Centroc is unaware of the availability of data in this regard but would be keen for this to be publicly available to enable engagement in any risk assessment undertaken in the future.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p>

<p>impacts to or benefit of ecological services – fish, birds and vegetation which are also used by Aboriginal people.</p>		<p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area</p>
<p>Instream works are impacting on the general and natural flow of water within a system ie Bogan system. This system has a number of weirs that have been created over time to aid with water extraction, but are limiting flow and recharge of ground water bores held downstream.</p>	<p>Potential for WRP risk assessment to consider</p>	<p>Centroc welcomes a potential risk assessment and are keen for this to be publicly available to enable engagement in any risk assessment undertaken in the future that impacts on the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment.</p> <p>Note – the Bogan system is outside the Centroc region of coverage.</p>
<p>Water quality in the upper reaches of the Castlereagh is an issue in low flow times and generates significant weed growth. This hampers fishing activities and cultural renewal activities that look to utilise the water source.</p>	<p>Potential for WRP risk assessment to consider.</p>	<p>Note – the upper reaches of the Castlereagh river is outside the Centroc region of coverage.</p>
<p>Access to water for cultural practice and renewal activities is an issue that impacts the Aboriginal community’s ability to plan and carry out cultural renewal events. There is a reliance on natural flows, however planning around these events is problematic.</p>	<p>Provision for specific purpose licences. Potential for WRP risk assessment to consider.</p>	<p>Centroc has no policy position</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18</p>

		October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.
<b>Improving water sharing Issue</b>	<b>Status</b>	
Rules that govern the management of the EWA significantly limit the way in which water is used, as a large proportion of the EWA must be released as translucent flows. A full review of the environmental flow rules should be undertaken including, how the EWA is apportioned between the sub allowances, the timing of releases and the maximum thresholds of releases etc.	This has been discussed in the SAP. DPI Water will do further modelling of impacts and inter-agency discussion will be undertaken to help determine options for refining the environmental flow rules to ensure the best environmental outcomes are achieved with the EWA. Proposed options will be discussed by the SAP and feedback sought.	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc is unaware of options proposed being modelled and therefore cannot comment.</p> <p>As a general comment Centroc advocates for a regional water planning framework that takes into consideration water supply and demand options for the Local Water Utilities (LWUs) across the catchment as a whole that aligns Local, Regional, State and Federal planning processes and strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of towns, industry, agriculture and the</p>

<p>Flow targets prescribed in the Plan for environmental water releases incur significant losses from channel breakouts below Warren, resulting in inefficient water delivery. There is uncertainty over who should 'pay' for the additional losses incurred at these higher flow rates, with the potential for third-party impacts.</p>	<p>This issue is yet to be discussed in detail by the SAP.</p>	<p>environment.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>The structure and function of some environmental water advisory committees operating across the state are out of date and inconsistent. The membership, function and governance of the Environmental Flow Reference Group as established by the water sharing plan needs to be reviewed.</p>	<p>A review has been undertaken on the structure and function of environmental water advisory groups across NSW, and a state-wide approach to the management and function of the Environmental Water Advisory Groups (EWAGs) will be adopted for WRPs based on this review.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>Review the maximum flow trigger of 4000ML/day for translucent sub allowance. Changes to infrastructure undertaken in 2008/09 has alleviated some impacts of higher flows, therefore</p>	<p>This is will be discussed as part of the broader review of the EWA.</p>	<p>Centroc welcomes engagement by DPI Water on the review of the EWA.</p>

<p>this maximum flow target for translucent releases could be reviewed.</p>		
<p>Environmental water provisions in the plan may constrain the use of planned environmental water for assets other than the Macquarie River and the Macquarie Marshes.</p>	<p>The Long Term Watering Plan (LTWP) will determine the watering priorities for the valley and WRP will need to be consistent with the LTWP once it is developed.</p>	<p>Centroc seeks engagement by DPI Water in the development of the Long Term watering Plan for the Macquarie –Castlereagh catchment.</p>
<p>The method used to measure the delivery of environmental water releases is not as accurate as metered water users and the level of accuracy should be improved</p>	<p>DPI Water in collaboration with WaterNSW will investigate this matter to help inform the discussion.</p>	<p>Centroc seeks engagement in any discussions regarding water resource planning that impact on the Central NSW region.</p>
<p>Consideration should be given to diverting some water from environmental releases into effluent creeks such as Belaringa and Ewenmar Creeks, especially if it re-enters the main river further downstream. It was suggested that this change would greatly benefit the community, including the local Indigenous community.</p>	<p>The LTWP will determine the watering priorities for the valley. The WRP will need to be consistent with the LTWP once it is developed.</p>	<p>Centroc seeks engagement by DPI Water in the development of the Long Term watering Plan for the Macquarie –Castlereagh catchment.</p>
<p>The Plan does not specify an end of system flow target for the regulated water source. In recent years there have been periods of no flow in the Macquarie River at Pillicawarrina and landholders are very concerned about the health of the river.</p>	<p>This issue is yet to be discussed by the SAP.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>

<p><b>Review environmental flow rules for the Cudgegong River</b>  The Plan currently specifies rules which determine when translucent flows are released from Windamere Dam. Concern has been raised that the rules are too restrictive and do not achieve the environmental outcomes intended. Arrangements for managing environmental releases during major flood events will also be considered as part of water resource planning.</p>		
<p><b>Issues</b>  Review environmental flow rules for the Cudgegong River to ensure the best environmental outcomes are achieved with the water available, particularly investigating whether plan based environmental flow rules should be converted to discretionary water.</p>	<p><b>Status</b>  Aspects of the issue have been discussed by the SAP. Further work is being undertaken by DPI Fisheries to inform further discussion.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc seeks engagement in any discussions regarding water resource planning that impact on the Central NSW region.</p>
<p>Infrastructure constraints (causeway) may be removed in the future which would allow the maximum daily flow limits in the Cudgegong River to be increased.</p>	<p>This issue has been discussed by the SAP. The environmental flow rules can be reviewed if and when the causeway is upgraded, if deemed to be in the public interest</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p>

		<p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc seeks engagement in any discussions regarding water resource planning that impact on the Central NSW region.</p>
<p>The Plan does not recognise that translucent releases from Windamere Dam may need to be suspended when major flooding occurs in the Macquarie River.</p>	<p>The SAP has discussed options for resolving various aspects of this issue.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc is unaware of options proposed and is therefore unable to comment.</p>
<p><b>Changing the boundary of the regulated water source</b> The boundary of the regulated water source was</p>		

<p>formally established when the Plan commenced in 2004. There have been a number of suggestions to review the current water source boundary.</p>		
<p><b>Issue</b> The regulated reach should be extended to include the unregulated Lower Macquarie River as the regulated river is the only source of water for this section of the river.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> There was some discussion about how this could be achieved, however it was agreed that extending the regulated water sources would result in a decrease in General Security (GS) shares, and would have direct third party impacts. Based on this assessment it was agreed that the issue was <b>out of scope</b> and should not be progressed any further during water resource planning.</p>	<p>No comment sought- out of scope.</p>
<p>WaterNSW has indicated that there may be merit in investigating what water savings would be achieved by reducing the regulated reach.</p>	<p>The issue was <b>discussed by the SAP</b>. WaterNSW stated any proposal to reduce the extent of the regulated reach would need to be properly investigated to determine what the cost would be and if the savings are worth pursuing. The time required to undertake such an investigation will not align with WRP timeframes and therefore it was decided that this <b>issue should not be progressed as part of WRP development</b>.</p>	<p>No comment sought.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc is unaware of discussions that the SAP</p>

		have had with regard to this issue.
<b>Improving account management rules</b>		
<p><b>Issue</b></p> <p>Carry over forfeiture rules could be refined and simplified to improve account management for water users.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>DPI Water is exploring options for simplifying carryover forfeiture rules. Once finalised these options will be discussed by the SAP.</p>	<p>No comment sought.</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>Some Cudgegong licences holders have generous carry-over volumes that should be reviewed as they are inequitable.</p>	<p>This issue has been discussed by the SAP, but not finalised.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>

<p>Evaporation rules could be reviewed as they are complicated and unnecessary.</p>	<p>This matter was <b>discussed by the SAP</b> and there was general agreement that the current rules are acceptable and reviewing them was not a priority.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>The carryover forfeiture rules disadvantage water users at the bottom end of the system due to the time it takes water to be delivered, and subsequently debited from accounts.</p>	<p>WaterNSW has a facility in their accounting software which has <b>resolved this issue</b></p>	<p>No comment sought</p>
<p>New “drought of record” data to be considered to ensure current rules are still appropriate.</p>	<p>The 2014 amendments to the <b>Water Management Act 2000, have provided clear guidance on this matter.</b></p>	<p>No comment sought</p>
<p>The Macquarie Cudgegong Customer Service Committee (CSC) previously recommended that water order debiting be introduced for water users who repeatedly pump less than what they ordered.</p>	<p>The <b>Plan was amended in 2014</b> to allow DPI Water to apply water order debiting to ‘repeat offenders’ without changing conditions on all regulated licences.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p> <p>Local Government representative on the Macquarie Cudgegong CSC- Stewart McLeod, Dubbo and Brad Cam, Mid Western.</p> <p><a href="http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/feedback/committees/macquarie-cudgegong-csc">http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/feedback/committees/macquarie-cudgegong-csc</a></p>

<p><b>Managing access to water under supplementary licences</b></p> <p>Supplementary water access licences are only able to access their water from uncontrolled flows in the regulated river system. These flows occur when the combination of dam spills and tributary inflows exceed specified downstream water requirements. The water sharing plan specifies the portion of these uncontrolled flows that must be left for the environment. It states that the water user’s share of these flows ‘should be managed, as fair as possible, to evenly share access opportunity amongst all supplementary water access licences.’ WaterNSW administers this sharing.</p>		
<p><b>Issue</b></p> <p>Increase supplementary access triggers to reflect original intent of supplementary water which was to allow access in times of plenty when there would be no adverse impacts of the environment.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>This matter has been <b>discussed by the SAP</b> and was considered to be out of scope as any increase in access triggers is likely to disadvantage supplementary access licence holders.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p> <p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>

<p>Review supplementary access and account management rules to provide increased opportunities for supplementary access licence holders.</p>	<p>The SAP has discussed an initial proposal to increase opportunities for supplementary water users. DPI Water is exploring further options which will be discussed by the SAP.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>The Plan does not accurately reflect how WaterNSW currently manages supplementary access and does not specify how access should be shared between users. The provisions should be re-drafted to provide more clarity.</p>	<p>The provisions will be re-drafted to provide more clarity as part of the WRP process.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p> <p>Centroc seeks engagement regarding Water Sharing Planning as it impacts on water resources in the Central NSW region once the provisions have been re-drafted.</p>
<p><b>Review trading rules</b></p>		
<p><b>Issue</b></p> <p>The Plan limits the volume of water that can be traded into specific areas in the regulated water source. Trade limits were often based on channel capacity constraints, or to avoid third party impacts on other licence holders. These limits are an unnecessary barrier and should be removed to provide more flexibility for water users.</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>This issue has not yet been discussed by the SAP.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel</p>

		for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.
<p><b>Improving river operations</b> WaterNSW operates the Macquarie Cudgegong regulated system to deliver water in accordance with the water sharing plan. Some adjustments to the water sharing plan have been proposed to provide greater certainty.</p>		
<p><b>Issues</b> Arrangements for sharing channel capacity between general security licences and the EWA during periods of constraint are unclear.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> These provisions <b>will be reviewed</b> to ensure state-wide consistency.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p> <p>Centroc seeks engagement in any discussions regarding water sharing planning that impacts on the Central NSW region.</p>
<p>The Plan does not prescribe the circumstances around bulk water transfers and clarity should be provided to ensure there is not effect on the reliability of Cudgegong licence holders.</p>	<p>Recent amendments to the Water Management Act 2000 have provided clear guidance on drought reserves. The amendments allow for the worst drought that occurred prior to the commencement of the 2004 water sharing plan to continue to be used to determine the storage reserve. This effectively restores the licence reliability to what was negotiated during the original Plan development. <b>The detail around the bulk water transfer arrangements are contained in a protocol which have recently been reviewed, in consultation with stakeholders.</b> It is not appropriate to place this level of detail in the Plan. This issue will not be progressed any further.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p>

<p>The Plan includes requirements to supply replenishment flows into a number of rivers, creeks and effluent streams from regulated flows from time to time. The purpose of these is to supply domestic and stock needs. A number of issues have been raised about various replenishment flows. Many comments indicated the volumes were inadequate and were not being delivered when needed most i.e. during dry times.</p>	<p>Many of the replenishment flows prescribed in the Plan can only be delivered from uncontrolled flows i.e. tributary flows, where the intention is to provide stock and domestic water to specified rivers and creeks when there is excess water available in the system. There is no scope to provide these flows from dam releases as it would have impacts on water security. WaterNSW explained that most of the issues raised are operational issues and should not be considered as part of WRP. Individual issues about other replenishment flows specified in the WSP have yet to be discussed in detail by the SAP.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p>The Macquarie River downstream of Oxley currently receives no replenishment flows. A decision to use Bulgeraga Creek to deliver water around the South Marsh has resulted in a small section of the Macquarie River downstream of Oxley receiving no flows for stock and domestic purposes.</p>	<p>This issue is yet to be discussed in detail by the SAP. Further investigations are being undertaken to identify options to resolve this issue.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Note –this issue is outside the Centroc region of coverage.</p>
<p>Consideration should be given to the greater alignment of replenishment flows in effluent</p>	<p>The SAP discussed this issue briefly and agreed that it was an operational issue and if deemed</p>	<p>No comment sought</p>

<p>creek systems with natural seasonality.</p>	<p>appropriate it could occur under the existing suite of water sharing rules. <b>The issue will not be progressed as part of WRP.</b></p>	
<p>The Plan prescribes the operation of Windamere and Burrendong dams during floods including air space operation rules for Burrendong Dam. A review of the full supply level of Burrendong Dam should be undertaken to determine if sufficient advances in weather and flood forecasting provide new information for consideration. The proposal could improve the management of the Flood Mitigation Zone (FMZ) and increase water security.</p>	<p><b>WaterNSW have presented an initial proposal to the SAP for feedback.</b> It was noted that this is a major project requiring extensive investigation and approval by various government agencies. <b>WaterNSW and DPI Water agreed that a project of this significance should be progressed outside of the WRP process, after executive level support is given.</b> If necessary, WRP to be amended in the future to take account of any changes.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p><b>Increasing flexibility for general security licence holders</b> General security water access licences can currently carryover unused water allocations from one year to the next. The water sharing plan sets limits to how much water allocation can be accumulated and how much can be used in a year.</p>		
<p><b>Issues</b> Water users are concerned that usage is well below the Plan limit, and that water sharing rules may be unintentionally limiting access. They would also like to explore opportunities to</p>	<p><b>Status</b> DPI Water undertook some analysis which was discussed with Macquarie River Food and Fibre (MRFF) representatives in December 2014. The results indicated water usage was in-line with</p>	<p>As the NSW Government Roadmap proposes a triple –bottom-line approach to the Murray Darling Basin Plan which puts local communities first – we’re keen to understand how DPI Water plan to engage with communities in our region and to offer support in ensuring an appropriate</p>

<p>improve access, to maximise production and economic benefit from water allocated for consumption.</p>	<p>estimates in the Plan. Modelled results for both the short-term and long-term periods were the same i.e. extractions equalled 27% of average annual flow. Actual extraction was 3% lower than the predicted 27% provided for in the Plan however, the DPI Water modellers indicated this was unlikely to be caused by impediments in the Plan. However extraction over the long-term is considerably lower than the LTAAEL.</p>	<p>balance of social-economic and environmental water needs that has broad based acceptance.</p>
<p>Based on initial modelling results for the Baseline Diversion Limit (BDL) and Pre Basin Plan Recovery scenarios, it is clear that general security users are currently diverting less than the Plan limit (over the long term). Water users have requested a number of options be further investigated to ensure water users can access their share, including reducing the EWA in order to restore the balance.</p>	<p>DPI Water will investigate options to improve water users' access up to the Plan limit. This issue will be re-visited towards the end of the strategy and rule development phase when all proposed changes can be modelled to determine what usage would be under the proposed rules. This will inform what options, if any should be considered. Any changes to the EWA would require concurrence from the Minister for the Environment.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p>
<p><b>Improving plan objectives and performance indicators</b> Several stakeholders were critical of the water sharing plan objectives and performance indicators. The water sharing plan will be part of the water resource plan, so its objectives must be consistent with those of the water resource plan. The water resource plan must address environmental and water quality objectives set out in the Basin Plan and identify the objectives of Aboriginal people.</p>		

<p><b>Issues</b> The current objectives and performance indicators in the water sharing plans are not fit for purpose.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> DPI Water is developing improved plan objectives and performance indicators. The Appendix includes a draft set of objectives for the Macquarie-Castlereagh water resource plan. <b>Comment on these objectives has not yet been sought from the SAP.</b></p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc seeks engagement with DPI Water on plan objectives and performance indicators.</p>
<p><b>Reviewing mandatory conditions on licences and approvals</b></p>		
<p><b>Issue</b> Mandatory conditions relating to logbooks and metering requirements are impractical to implement.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> A state-wide approach <b>is being developed</b> for consultation.</p>	<p>No comment sought</p>
<p><b>Review trading rules in unregulated water sources</b></p>		
<p><b>Issue</b> Concerns were raised with the trading rules in the Lower Macquarie River water source are inequitable and should be reviewed to provide</p>	<p><b>Status</b> This issue is <b>yet to be discussed by the SAP.</b></p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of their communities and would like an opportunity to do so.</p>

<p>more flexibility to licence holders.</p>		<p>It is unclear from this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Macquarie-Castlereagh Water Resource Area.</p>
<p><b>Complying with the SDL</b></p>		
<p><b>Issue</b> Under the Basin Plan, compliance with the SDL is determined each year by summing a running balance of ‘unders’ and ‘overs’ from previous years. If the balance exceeds 20% of the SDL this may be a breach. Water sharing plans have different arrangements for assessing compliance with extraction limits, which may not synchronise with the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan also provides for States to put forward reasonable excuses for SDL non-compliance. Long-Term Diversion Limit Equivalent (LTDLE) factors need to be established for each licence category in order to determine what percentage of each megalitre of water recovered for the environment contributes to bridging the gap between existing limits and the SDL.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> These two issues will be addressed as part of the development of a NSW approach to addressing planning assumptions for surface water resources.</p>	<p>Centroc seeks engagement in the development of a NSW approach to addressing planning assumptions for surface water resources as it impacts on central NSW water resources.</p>
<p><b>Environmental watering</b></p>		
<p><b>Issue</b> Changes to the way environmental water will be managed and used can affect water for licence</p>	<p><b>Status</b> OEH will be proposing management objectives and rules. DPI Water will assess the impact of</p>	<p>No comment sought</p>

<p>holders. How environmental water can be used is constrained by the current legislative and policy framework in NSW.</p>	<p>these using the river system model. DPI Water is also investigating and developing new tools to increase transparency and availability of environmental water use. A state-wide approach, the NSW Policy Pre-requisite Implementation Plan, is in the process of being finalised. This implementation plan will provide direction for any policy and legislative changes that NSW will make to improve environmental watering.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of its communities and would like an opportunity to be able to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Lachlan Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc welcome engagement by the NSW Government on the NSW Policy Pre-requisite Implementation Plan.</p>
<p><b>Managing risks</b></p>		
<p><b>Issue</b> There are medium to high risks to ecological values on the regulated river system arising from the take of water and regulation of flows.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> DPI Water and OEH are developing strategies that may address these risks. The outcomes of the risk assessment have not yet been presented to the SAP.</p>	<p>In line with Centroc Board resolve Central NSW Councils are keen to influence outcomes in support of its communities and would like an opportunity to be able to do so.</p> <p>It is unclear this Status and Issues paper as to the opportunities for engagement and as detailed in correspondence to DPI Water (18 October 2016- see copy attached) seek a targeted consultation with Local Government in the region or representation on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Lachlan Water Resource Area.</p> <p>Centroc seeks engagement by OEH and DPI</p>

		Water on risk mitigation strategies.
There are possible medium to high risks to ecological values on a number of unregulated river water sources arising from the take of water and regulation of flows. More information is needed to confirm whether this is the case.	Trade rules prevent risks being made worse by limiting trade into these areas. The current unregulated river water sharing plan is due for review in 2022. Better information on take of water should be available by that time	No comment sought
<b>Risks to water availability caused by increase in number of farm dams</b>		
<b>Issues</b> There are possible medium risks to ecological values in three water sources arising from future growth in farm dams	<b>Status</b> Subject to funding DPI Water will monitor to determine if increases in farm dams actually occur in these areas.	No comment sought
<b>Risks to water availability arising from climate change</b>		
<b>Issue</b> Climate change poses little risk to entitlement irrespective of the scenario modelled (i.e. wet, median or dry). However, there is medium to high risk to both the Macquarie Marshes and the Wilgara Wetlands resulting from climate change	<b>Status</b> Current water sharing plans already provide water trading and carryover of water allocations to help water licence holders cope with changing climate. Given the long-term nature of climate change trends and the uncertainty about which scenario will actually occur, the situation should be monitored and reassessed when the water resource plan is next reviewed.	Water security for the region's urban centres is one of the highest priorities for Central NSW Councils with long term water security vital to meet community needs and underpin confidence for continued investment and growth in the region. Water for urban use is crucial for the sustainability of the region's towns.  Centroc has undertaken extensive work on urban water security over the past decade completing the National award winning Centroc Water Security Study (CWSS) in 2009 which identified a range of water security solutions for the Central

		<p>NSW region.</p> <p>Since then Centroc has undertaken regional water planning completing Regional Demand, Drought and Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plans through its regionally collaborative Centroc Water Utilities Alliance (CWUA).</p> <p>Centroc has long advocated to the State Government for a review of the CWSS with DPI Water, NSW Water and other key stakeholders at the table. This is seen as essential as changes in model outputs in recent years attempt to accurately reflect the impacts of climate change on catchment yields which could result in significantly less secure water supplies than the original report.</p> <p>Key to a review of the CWSS and the development of Integrated Water Cycle Management Plans is the modelling to determine secure yield-based on how the climate change impacts have affected secure yield assessments.</p> <p>DPI Water has been working in this regard for some time and it is understood that draft Guidelines on Assuring Future Urban Water Security are available for use but have not yet been formally adopted.</p> <p>Centroc continues to advocate for a review of the CWSS and the opportunity to influence outcomes of any scenario modelling undertaken in the Macquarie-Castlereagh catchment for the</p>
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		benefits of its communities.
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