



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

18/06244

Ms Peggy Danaee
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy
House of Representatives
Parliament of Australia
PO Box 6021
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL WATER

Thank you for your letter inviting a submission to the Inquiry into the Management and use of Commonwealth Environmental Water from the ACT.

I note the terms of reference and the particular consideration to be given to the role of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). The ACT welcomes the inquiry to review the role of the CEWH and its activities to ensure effective and appropriate management of water acquired by the CEWH in the Murray-Darling Basin for the Basin's environmental assets.

As the CEWH is not currently involved in any activities in the ACT or indeed in the upper Murrumbidgee River system, the ACT will not be submitting a comprehensive submission to the inquiry. The ACT however would like the Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy to consider potential opportunities to improve the environmental health of the Murrumbidgee by the CEWH as a means for improved water use for the environment as indicated in the Committee's terms of reference.

The upper Murrumbidgee River was severely affected by the construction of the Tantangara Dam in 1960 which led to reduced flows for the river. I would like to put forward that the CEWH could acquire water for the environment which could be managed to provide environmental water for the environmental assets in the mid and lower Murrumbidgee River system while improving the health of the River via increased flows.

There is potential for environmental water to be acquired in the ACT and be provided sustainably for that purpose especially as the ACT releases through its water utility to the river system that could be allocated for the environment.

The Environment Division of my Directorate can provide further information on this aspect. Please contact Mr Matt Kendall, Executive Manager Catchment and Water Policy on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

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Ben Ponton
Director-General
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
11 April 2018