

Quote No L17/1717 - 11/426
DT:LMS

Telephone / Personal Enquiries
Ask for Mayor Darriea Turley

31 July 2017

Please address all communications to:
The General Manager
240 Blende Street
PO Box 448
Broken Hill NSW 2880
Phone 08 8080 3300
Fax 08 8080 3424
council@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au
www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au

ABN 84 873 116 132

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, BA, Dint\$, MCom MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

Alleged illegal water extraction practices in the Barwon-Darling River System undermining the future of the Murray Darling Basin Scheme

Council at its meeting held Wednesday 26 July 2017 considered Mayoral Minute 5/17 dated 26 July 2017 – Illegal water extraction practices in the Barwon-Darling River System undermining the future of the Murray Darling Basin Scheme and resolved Minute No. (45580).

1. *That Mayoral Minute No. 5/17 dated 26 July 2017, be received.*
2. *That the Broken Hill City Council expresses its disgust at the betrayal of the people of western NSW and the reckless disregard for the Murray Darling Basin Plan which have been revealed by the Four Corners program.*
2. *That this Council supports the establishment of a royal commission or high level judicial inquiry of equal status into the abuse of water sharing plans and the theft of water intended for environmental use and Broken Hill's water supply as revealed by the Four Corners report.*
3. *That the Broken Hill City Council calls on the NSW government as a matter of urgency to reinstate the Compliance Unit which was investigating water extraction in NSW and to report publicly on its findings as a matter of urgency as soon as they become available.*
5. *That the Council calls on the NSW government to place an immediate moratorium on the construction of the Wentworth to Broken Hill water pipeline and, further, calls for the immediate release of the Business Plan that led to the decision to construct this pipeline.*

Cont'd...

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you, at a time and location of your convenience, to discuss the matters listed above. These issues are considered a matter of urgency for the people of Broken Hill.

Yours faithfully

DARRIEA TURLEY
MAYOR

Copy: Mr Luke Foley, Leader of the Opposition
Mr Mark Coulton, Federal Member for the Electorate of Parkes
Mr Kevin Humphries, Member for Barwon



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

Reference: A2211657

10 AUG 2017

Ms Darriea Turley
Mayor
Broken Hill City Council
240 Blende St
PO Box 448
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 July 2017 in relation to the Barwon-Darling River System and the future of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

The NSW Government remains committed to the Murray Darling Basin Plan, while seeking the best deal for NSW communities within that framework.

We take the allegations raised in the 24 July 2017 'Four Corners' report seriously. We have launched an urgent and thorough independent investigation into all of the allegations raised, which is being run by the eminent Mr Ken Matthews AO. The Secretary of the Department of Industry has also referred the allegations to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

As the matters raised fall under the responsibility of the Minister for Regional Water, The Hon Niall Blair MLC, it is appropriate that the Minister considers your correspondence and I have forwarded it accordingly.

Thank you for taking the time to bring these issues to my attention.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier

CC: The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Regional Water

Quote No L17/1894 - 11/426
JR:LJB

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25 August 2017

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian BA DintS MCom MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

Water Extraction in the Northern Basin – 4 Corners Expose

I write to you in my capacity as interim Chair of Region 4 of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) and in relation to the recent 4 Corners program that highlighted illegal over extraction in the Northern Basin.

By way of background, the MDA is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing local government and the communities we serve across the Murray-Darling Basin since 1944.

As the third level of government in Australia, and the one most directly connected to community, local government has a valuable contribution to make in the processes, community consultation, and the formulation of decisions made and taken in the continuing implementation of the Basin Plan. This is enhanced beyond measure when local government is working together Basin wide.

Built on a strong foundation of good governance, we work with and for member councils, in collaboration with state based local government associations (LGA SA, MAV, LGA NSW and LGAQ), Regional Organisations of Councils, Joint Organisations and other local government affiliations.

The MDA provides members with the means and opportunity to actively participate in informing water policy, and provides state and Federal governments, the MDBA and other agencies with an opportunity to access community consultation and perspectives via a comprehensive community network coverage. Region 4's financial membership base comprises the Councils of Broken Hill City Council, Central Darling Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council and Wentworth Shire Council.

Cont'd...

Region 4 of the MDA met on Monday 14 August 2017 in Wentworth, and resolved as follows:

Motion: That Region 4:

- a) Request a meeting with the New South Wales Premier and Water Minister, and the NSW Opposition Leader and Shadow Water Minister to
 - i. discuss the Menindee Lakes water management strategy, and
 - ii. Request that local government have input into the review of NSW Water Resource Plans.
- b) Invite neighbouring MDA regions to participate in this process.

Moved: Cr Jason Modica

Seconded: Mayor Melisa Hederics

CARRIED

Further discussion on the Wentworth to Broken Hill Pipeline.

Motion: That Region 4 call for the NSW government to

- a) place an immediate moratorium on the construction of the Wentworth to Broken Hill water pipeline and
- b) make public the business case for the Wentworth to Broken Hill Water Pipeline prepared by New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

Moved: Cr Jane MacAllister

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Milne

CARRIED

The meeting was unanimous in its support of the above motions and we seek your earliest response to our requests.

Yours sincerely

MAYOR DARRIEA TURLEY
MDA REGION 4 CHAIR

Cc: The Hon Nial Blair, Minister for Regional Water
Mr Luke Foley MP, Leader of the Opposition
Mr Chris Minns MP, Shadow Minister for Water
The Hon Mick Veitch, Shadow Minister for Western NSW
Mr Mark Coulton, Federal Member for the Electorate of Parkes
Mr Kevin Humphries MP, Member for Barwon
Ms Emma Bradbury, Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association Inc.
Murray Darling Association, Region 4 Chairs



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

Reference: A2239390

03 OCT 2017

Ms Darriea Turley
Mayor
Broken Hill City Council
240 Blende St
PO Box 448
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 August 2017 in relation to water extraction in the Northern Basin and the Broken Hill pipeline.

On 11 September 2017, the NSW Government released Mr Ken Matthews AO's interim report into water administration and compliance in NSW. This urgent and independent investigation was commissioned by the Minister for Regional Water, The Hon Niall Blair MLC, following the allegations raised in the 24 July 2017 ABC 4 Corners report.

Mr Matthews' interim report has raised a number of concerning issues around water compliance and enforcement in NSW. The NSW Government has accepted the principles in the Water Management Compliance Improvement Package that Mr Matthews has recommended and work has commenced on its implementation. These include a new independent Natural Resource Access Regulator, the introduction of a 'no meter, no pump' policy for all large water users across NSW within 12 months, and new monitoring and compliance technologies.

I understand the Minister for Regional Water is open to meeting with representatives from the Murray Darling Association either in Broken Hill or Sydney at an agreeable time and I have forwarded your correspondence to the Minister for his consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to bring these issues to my attention.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier

CC: The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Regional Water