

## **Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

**Response to question taken on notice at a public hearing on 1 November 2017**

**Response received 15 December 2017**

***Proof Committee Hansard, p. 36:***

**Senator McCARTHY:** Mr Smith, would each of the 16 landholders that you've made reference to, from Menindee to Broken Hill, have had no involvement in the new pipeline and been given no consultation around that?

**Mr Smith:** We haven't had any involvement or consultation with regard to the new pipeline.

**Senator McCARTHY:** So how have you learned about it?

**Mr Smith:** We pretty much read about it in the newspaper.

**Senator McCARTHY:** Is it the same with you, Mr Gall?

**Mr Gall:** Yes.

**Senator McCARTHY:** So there have been no formal attempts to consult with the association or with individual landholders?

**Mr Gall:** If my memory serves me correctly, there was communication initiated with the body responsible for the planning of the pipeline, but I can't recall whether we contacted them in the first instance or whether they contacted us.

**Senator McCARTHY:** Who would that be?

**Mr Gall:** WaterNSW.

**Senator McCARTHY:** Would you like to take that question on notice and just examine your own correspondence and be able to provide that to the committee?

### **RESPONSE:**

***Mr Lachlan Gall, President, Pastoralists' Association of West Darling***

I can advise the Committee that the Pastoralists' Association of West Darling initiated communication with The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Lands & Water in regard to landholder access to the proposed Wentworth – Broken Hill pipeline by letter on 28 September, 2016. A reply was subsequently received from Minister Blair, followed much later by contact from Consultancy Firm RMCG and subsequently WaterNSW.

The subject of communication between PAWD and Minister Blair, RMCG and Water NSW in regard to the proposed pipeline was limited to negotiating access to water from the pipeline for landholders along the route.