Submission Number: 29
Date Received: 16/06/2012

SL

INQUIRY BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.
Submission by Tallowa Pipeline Company Pty Ltd. [TPC]. Date: 15th June 2012.

The committee is required to investigate:

1. **Progress to date through infrastructure and buy backs:** These have yielded about half of the required 2750 gigalitres needed. TPC believes it can provide a large percentage of the remaining shortfall by delivering water stored in Tallowa and Wivenhoe dams into the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Condamine rivers. See point 2.

2. **Potential role of new works and measures to partially offset SDL reductions.**
It is frquently possible to inject five gigalitres per day into MDB watercourses of surplus water from Wivenhoe and Tallowa dams and charge the Darling, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan valleys. In La Nina periods such as we are currently experiencing the water is available for hundreds of days per year. In the past eighteen months **2000 to 2500 GL** could have been extracted with minimal environmental impact.
If this volume had been banked in aquifer storage it could then have been released in a controlled fashion to the mining areas [which need regular water supply] and the environment, which has more flexible requirements. ie rivers survive long periods of minimal or nil flow as we have seen over the past ten year drought.
The exercise is to locate storage facilities for the water. We know Geoscience Australia is progressing well at Menindie-Broken Hill and it is essential that experts like GA locate and quantify more aquifer storage, particularly around Lake Victoria.
Storages on the Darling and Lower Murray are essential, preferably underground, but if necessary, above ground to make up the required volumes.

This company in association with Evans and Peck and GHD has spent 5000 man hours on self funded research to come to this point, and at present has been invited by the NSW and Queensland governments to present the Tallowa and Wivenhoe schemes.

We seek a similar invitation from the Federal Government to present the schemes which tick all of the four major boxes:

- **TECHNICAL:** Where we are using known technology ie pipelines, pumping facilities and open channel civil engineering.
- **FINANCIAL:** Mining companies are willing to pay $4-5.00 per kilolitre for their water. This allows major projects to be self funding with nil or minimal government input and project budgets designed around supporting income.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL:** It appears there is a current shortfall around 1000 GL per annum which could largely be sourced from new and existing dam storages, starting with Tallowa and Wivenhoe.
- **SOCIAL/CULTURAL:** Where all parties win.

The project could be implemented over the next decade with scoping studies commissioned without delay after appropriate due diligence.

Copies of three relevant reports are attached.

3. **Groundwater SDL,s require further investigation.** This could be a minefield.

Tallowa Pipeline Company Pty Ltd,
PO Box 111,
COLEAMBALLY NSW 2707,

per Frank Smith CEO.