



NSW INLAND FORUM

Dubbo City Council

Tamworth Regional Council

Wagga Wagga City Council

Telephone: (02) 6881 4222

Telephone: (02) 6767 5555

Telephone: 1300 2 WAGGA

The NSW Inland Forum is a joint initiative of Dubbo, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga City Councils, which collectively represent a population catchment of 430,000. The Forum's objective is to present a single voice to Government on matters of mutual interest.

4 February 2011

Mr Tony Windsor MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission No:	606
Date Received:	22/2/11
Secretary:	SL

21 FEB 2011

Dear Mr Windsor,

I write to you as chair of the NSW Inland Forum Group comprising the Councils of the Cities of Dubbo, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga.

The NSW Inland Forum Group of Councils have a lot in common and the Forum has a principle objective of improving the services and facilities for the communities that we serve.

The Mayors of the three cities, Councillor Col Murray from Tamworth, Councillor Alan Smith from Dubbo and myself who sit on the Forum together with our respective General Managers, write to submit a response regarding the "Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan".

At the November 2010 meeting of the Inland Forum Group, consideration was given to the potential impact of the Plans' proposals on their cities and regions. The concerns are outlined as follows:

- Urban water availability and security in light of the sustainable diversion limits and the potential impact on growth Councils such as Inland Forum members and Evocities, noting that there should be exemptions for urban water.
- The need to secure additional water supplies could see Councils pitted against rural users and may result in growth of cities within the Murray Darling Basin being inhibited.
- Potential impact on economic growth and industrial/commercial operations and potential for business being driven away.

The NSW Inland Forum understands and supports the overall objectives of improving the ecology of the Basin's river systems but highlight the need for urban water to be quarantined from constraints due to the social and economic value of water to communities in the Murray Darling Basin.

We look forward to being updated and closely involved in the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Wayne Geale
Chair, NSW Inland Forum

cc Murray Darling Basin Authority

The Secretariat for 2010 is Wagga Wagga City Council. Please address all correspondence to:

Cr Wayne Geale

Mayor

PO Box 20

Wagga Wagga City Council

WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

email: council@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Telephone: 1300 2 WAGGA

Facsimile: (02) 6926 9199