

Wollondilly Water Symposium



Post event responses

Question	Answer
<p>Securing a long term solution for Sydney's water supply after the completion of Warragamba Dam, engineers from the Water Board and the Snowy Mountains planned the Shoalhaven Scheme in two stages, 1 & 2.</p> <p>Stage 1 was completed in the 1970's and included Fitzroy Falls Dam, Wingecarribee Dam, Talowa Dam and associated pipelines and canals to deliver water to the existing dam systems, Warragamba and Upper Nepean.</p> <p>The start of Stage 2 commenced in the 1980's with the purchase of lands for Welcome Reef Dam in the Braidwood area but came to a halt with a Government "NO More Dams Policy" and the desalination plant was constructed which works well for parts of the Sydney area but is of little use for other rapidly expanding areas such as Wollondilly.</p> <p>Water from Welcome Reef Dam when released would keep Talowa dam full for pumping when and as required.</p> <p>The political experts stated that Welcome Reef Dam would not keep water due to it being reasonably shallow and wide.</p> <p>But the Engineers from the Water Board and Snowy calculated there would be enough water to utilize when required.</p> <p>If this dam is no longer considered viable would the Government implement Section 182 of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Act 1974 to build a deeper dam downstream in the Shoalhaven gorge above Talowa Dam?</p>	<p>Answered by: WaterNSW</p> <p>No WaterNSW has not looked at this option recently. As a result of the last drought Government is looking at Rainfall Independent supply.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>NOTE – a similar section of the original NPWS Act of 1967, Section 21 provided the way for Talowa Dam to be constructed in a revoked section of Morton National Park.</p>	
<p>Underground coal mining in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment is negatively impacting both the quality and quantity of water. Specifically, mining is expanding around the Cordeaux and Cataract Reservoirs. These reservoirs are the main water supply for Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly council areas.</p> <p>A proposed expansion at South32's Dendrobium mine, if approved, will crack and drain swamps and watercourses that feed the Cordeaux reservoir. Furthermore, Wollongong Coal Ltd has recently received approval to expand its Russell Vale mine up to the shores of Cataract Reservoir. The Dept Planning confirms that the purpose of this proposal is to pave the way for a much larger expansion of mining around Cataract Reservoir and to its west.</p> <p>Water catchment and storage, and underground coal mining are fundamentally different and irreconcilable land uses. Greater Sydney is the only city in the world to allow coalmining so close to its drinking water storages.[iii] While this issue has been acknowledged by Wollondilly Shire Council and WaterNSW, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment continues to recommend coal mining expansions that degrade and threaten the water supply for this rapidly growing area of Sydney.</p> <p>How much mining is enough? When will the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment call an end to mining in the Special Areas and take steps to protect the water supply of Wollondilly and Greater Sydney from mining induced damage?</p>	<p>Answered by: WaterNSW</p> <p>WaterNSW has made its position re mining understood in our public pronouncements.</p> <p>Please refer to the information on WaterNSW website https://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/catchment/mining</p> <p>Answered by: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment</p> <p>The State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP) is the state policy which governs the way that mining, petroleum production and extractive material resource proposals are assessed and developed in NSW. The Mining SEPP aims to manage and sustainably develop these resources for the social and economic benefit of the community.</p> <p>In February 2018, the NSW Government established the 'Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment' to provide expert advice to the department on the impact of mining activities in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas, with a particular focus on the risks to the quantity of water in the Catchment. The Panel submitted its final report in October 2019. Following the NSW Government's adoption of all the panel's 50 recommendations, the department has established a new panel to provide Government with access to independent expert advice.</p> <p>Read more about the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment.</p> <p>More information is available at: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Mining-and-Resources</p>
<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>These are questions that we, Graham and Leah Dyason, residents of Mount Hunter on Burragarang Rd, have.</p> <p>1) Is there a plan to run water and/or sewerage to the Mount Hunter area at all in the future?</p>	<p>Answered by: Sydney Water</p> <p>There are properties within Sydney Water's area of operation that don't have a connection to our water or wastewater services. This can occur because of a range of reasons. The land may have been settled before planning schemes were in place, it could be too far from existing systems, or the topography of the area may have been too difficult or costly to connect when it was originally settled.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>2) Is there a plan to give proper guttering and drainage to the roads, instead of the large and dangerous/hazardous storm drains that line Burratorang Rd and therefore the fronts of our properties?</p> <p>3) Specifically for us, we have been constantly trucking in water before this year. We also have to pump out our effluent tank monthly.</p> <p>Yet we have troubles getting companies to do both, and are limited in our choices because of our limited access due to storm drains at the front of our property.</p> <p>This affects us significantly financially. We cannot do anything about this, i.e. find a cheaper competitor.</p> <p>We find this unfair, since we also pay high council rates and have none of these services provided. What can we do to make this sustainable for us as a young family (3 kids 6yrs and under), and what could Wollondilly Council and Sydney Water do?</p>	<p>While off-grid arrangements give people greater freedom on where they live across our region, especial for rural and peri-urban areas, they do have a reliance upon on-site solutions.</p> <p>There are some services in the Mount Hunter area but no immediate plans to extend the existing service arrangements. One option is to consider a minor services extension request. Details on this process is available here (link). To speak to one of Sydney Water's customer service representatives about this, please call 13 20 92.</p> <p>Kind regards Sydney Water</p> <p>Answered by: Wollondilly Council</p> <p>Kerb & gutter construction on Burratorang Road at Mt Hunter has been listed within the Draft Capital Works Program for a section of 295m in length during the 2023/24/25 financial years.</p> <p>This program is subject to change as other work priorities are identified, and the availability of funding which is subject to the adopted budget each financial year. Council has a limited budget for new asset construction as its main focus is on maintaining existing assets. However this segment has been identified as a high priority and will be attended to as funding allows.</p> <p>The kerb & gutter in this instance will require stormwater drainage to be completed at the same time if not before. Stormwater drainage is a separate program and has similar demands on limited funding. While the stormwater drainage itself would not rate as a high priority, the allocation of funding for construction of kerb & gutter will trigger allocation of stormwater funding to the same project.</p>
<p>Whilst this is mostly about Mt. Gilead it still forms part on the GMGA & will be impacted on this deplorable plan.</p> <p><u>Questions for Water Symposium Wed 19 May 2021</u></p> <p>Is there a risk management Plan for treated water and wastewater in the Upper Nepean catchment area now that Greater Macarthur is a declared growth area?</p> <p>What measures are there to keep heavy metals and treatment chemicals out of effluent that might flow into the Nepean River to ensure adverse environmental impacts are minimised?</p>	<p>Answered by: Sydney Water</p> <p>Thank you for your questions and interest in the water supply for the region.</p> <p>We take our environmental responsibilities seriously and report on our performance through our Annual Environmental Performance Report, which assesses the impact of Sydney Water's wastewater management. Sydney Water is continuing to work with the EPA as a part of the Hawkesbury Nepean framework.</p> <p>Sydney Water plans the delivery of services to align with a range of factors. This includes:</p>

Question	Answer
<p>With the Lend lease development at Gilead, is there a Risk Management Plan and an impartial Impact Statement to protect the pristine environments of Woodhouse, Menangle and Nepean Creeks that flow into the Nepean River?</p> <p>About 10 years ago when AGL wanted to build a gas fired power station at Leafs Gully , the water authority declared that it would not be able to guarantee water supply in the event of an emergency. How can today's water authorities guarantee water supply in the event of an emergency for the Lend Lease developments at Mt Gilead, given the sites join each other and both are in the same designated bushfire prone area?</p> <p>Can this government guarantee that there will always be abundant water and good water pressure for bushfire prevention, given that much of Greater Macarthur is bushfire prone?</p> <p>The 2017 Figures from Water NSW showed the Macarthur Water Filtration Plant as providing water for around 290,000 people in Macarthur. The water sharing plan should have been updated by now but it isn't. To update the water sharing plan requires consultation with community. I guess they don't want that. figure should read a projected 500k population.</p> <p>Water supply for Macarthur residents was critically low in December 2019 and the 2 dams supplying the area, the Cataract and Cordeaux dams, became contaminated with metallic sludge. There is no access to Warragamba Dam or desalination water and only very limited water supply from the Shoalhaven River. Where is the water security for existing and future residents, when Greater Macarthur's population is expected to increase to more than 600,00 in the near future as a result of the area being designated a growth area ?</p> <p>Can this government guarantee that existing environmental flows into the Nepean River will be maintained in all conditions, including in prolonged droughts?</p> <p>Is this state or federal government planning to build another dam or pipeline to Warragamba Dam to supply the Macarthur region and at what expense to our environment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Government's land release program DPIE dwelling projections • development applications • capacity of existing infrastructure • environmental protections for wastewater management <p>Each year we update and publish a Growth Servicing Plan, providing a high-level view of availability of water supply and wastewater infrastructure over the next 5-15 years. The 2020-2025 plan is available here and highlights the areas within the Greater Macarthur Region where Sydney Water is actively planning to service growth (pages 22-23).</p> <p>Sydney Water is also working with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, together with WaterNSW, on the Greater Sydney Water Strategy (GSWS). When approved by Government, the GSWS will replace the existing Metropolitan Water Plan and will establish a future vision for water in Greater Sydney outlining how the region will manage water to deliver a sustainable, productive and liveable city.</p> <p>Sydney Water are currently developing water and wastewater servicing plans for Greater Macarthur and Wilton, as detailed below.</p> <p>We look forward to providing more information about growth servicing in the future and encourage the community to take up opportunities for engagement with DPIE's Greater Sydney Water Strategy when that occurs.</p> <p>With relation to the Gilead development, all water and wastewater infrastructure to service the Lendlease development will be delivered and managed by them.</p> <p>Greater Macarthur We are developing our Greater Macarthur (GMAC) Regional and Sub-Regional and will identify a preferred servicing pathway for drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater in line with the Greater Sydney Commission's 'Parkland City' vision. The study area (Greater Macarthur) is around 50 km long (Glenfield to Bargo) and 35 km wide (Warragamba to Appin), and incorporates Campbelltown, Wollondilly and Camden local government areas.</p> <p>Wilton Infrastructure to service the Wilton Growth Area will be planned, designed and delivered over three stages to meet expected growth. Sydney Water is developing</p>

Question	Answer
<p>Menangle Creek at Mt Gilead had its creek bed fractured, probably as a result of coal seam gas fracking nearby, and saline groundwater now constantly drains into the Nepean River. Are water authorities concerned that disturbance of vegetation and bedrock with the Lendlease development in the headwaters of both Menangle and Woodhouse Creeks at Gilead will increase salinity in these creeks and the Nepean River?</p> <p>Are water authorities concerned that developing Greater Macarthur as a Growth Area will increase flooding downstream and the Greater Sydney Commission's District Plans recognised that flooding in the Nepean-Hawkesbury posed the greatest risk to life and property?</p> <p>Are water authorities concerned that Glenfield Treatment Plant is at capacity and frequently has to release untreated effluent into the Georges River, and that additional connection to the Plant, of Lend Leases' Stage 1 development at Gilead, will only add to the problem?</p> <p>How will wastewater and stormwater from later developments, such as Lend Lease Stage 2 at Gilead and the Inghams development near Appin, be dealt with ?</p> <p>Are there plans for a new sewage treatment plant? Where will it be located? What will be the level of treatment? Where will the treated effluent be discharged?</p>	<p>concept designs for the first stage of infrastructure needed to service the growth area up to 2026.</p> <p>As the development of the Wilton Growth Area is to be delivered at no additional cost to government, the pace of the planning, design and delivery work is informed by developer-motivated timeframes and guided by developer inputs and priorities. Water for the Wilton Growth Area will be supplied from the Macarthur Water Filtration Plant with new assets staged with growth and built primarily along existing infrastructure routes. New reservoirs will be required in Wilton to service the expected growth. While wastewater will be treated at the local recycled water plant, interim wastewater servicing may be required if developer timelines do not align with the delivery of long term solutions.</p> <p>We hope this information has been helpful. If it would be of benefit, our West Region Engagement Lead would be happy to meet with you regularly to provide updates on Sydney Water's work in this area.</p> <p>Kind regards Sydney Water.</p> <p>Answered by: WaterNSW</p> <p>WaterNSW believes that environmental processes will ensure issues are managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Item 1 – Yes they have. - Item 14. Documents from PIEW will be consulted on in the near future. <p>Insert detail on environmental and regional planning concerns that are matters for the Department of Industry and Environment, such as the existing water sharing plans. Water NSW will be able to provide advice on the upper canal.</p>
<p>Email 2 of 2</p> <p>As a resident who lives in Appin I hold grave concerns regarding the water in the Macarthur area, which is set for mass developments. Please can you answer the following questions with honesty?</p> <p>1. Have the Heritage protection aspects of the Upper Canal been adequately addressed? The upper canal is the unsung hero of Sydney's history, a precise piece of engineering still serving the needs of Sydney after 130 years. It was built in the 1880s and was Sydney's main water supply until Warragamba Dam was built. It was built but those with foresight & pride.</p>	<p>Answered by: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment</p> <p>The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is busy working with State agencies and Wollondilly Shire and Campbelltown City Councils to finalise the Greater Macarthur 2040 Plan.</p> <p>Key inputs to finalise the current Greater Macarthur Interim plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announcements from TfNSW in relation to the road corridors for the Outer Sydney Orbital Stage 2 and Link Road - Confirmation of the draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan mapping

Question	Answer
<p>2. Salinity from the Developments & the fracturing of the bedrock. Will this allow salt water to rise and invade the creeks & rivers of the area? Menangle Creek at Mt. Gilead, Ouesdale Creek, Mylatty Creek & others that form part of the ridge line will be affected by salt water.</p> <p>3. Menangle Creek especially has existing salt problems. The creek has suffered from fracking because of Coal Seam Gas extraction. Salt rings are very visible in the Menangle Creek area. Adjacent to Mt. Gilead on the other side of the creek is Roslyn Park coal seam gas compression plant and 2 visible operational Coal Seam gas wells. This creek water feeds into the Nepean River.</p> <p>4. An adjoining sandstone quarry breached Menangle Creek Bank resulting in remediation being requested by Campbelltown council. Can you assure that they are still not in breach of other requirements</p> <p>5. Mt. Gilead retirement Village (stolen name) replaced the name of Kilbride, sits on the side of a hill overlooking the Historical (real) Mt. Gilead. The adjoining DA 1240836 land, on maps on public exhibition, has in very small writing the initials STP suggesting a Sewer Treatment Plant, at this location. What affects will this have on both the Menangle Creek & the adjoining upper canal? Sewerage will be treated to what degree & where will it go once treated? Imagine the smell going up into the villas of the elderly residents of the retirement village.</p> <p>6. Can you assure that the stormwater runoff from the new Mass urban Developments planned for this area will not pollute both the Georges & Nepean Rivers? Evidence of Urban Development pollution has already been seen with Nepean River, downstream from Appin at Menangle Bridge. I have also seen this happening at Appin where Kennedy creek is littered with rubbish as a result of the new relatively small Development Appin Place.</p> <p>7. Menangle & Menangle Park developments are already approved, but will be built on partly flood plains. How can this be allowed? Will poor unsuspecting home buyers be able to get flood insurance and compensation when it floods or will the insurance premiums be so high, that struggling families will not be able to afford insurance?</p> <p>8. Menangle bridge that crosses the Nepean river, was a favourite local swimming hole, yet Campbelltown council has erected several signs in this area stating Water Quality is not suitable for swimming particularly after heavy rain</p> <p>9. Ingham's chicken farm commenced demolition before the DA was approved? It was reported there were many toxic burn offs, many of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of the Strategic Bushfire study for the Growth Area - Completion of the Structure Plans for Appin, North Appin and Gilead precincts through the Departments Technical Assurance Panel program. - Completion of the updated Transport study for the Growth Area <p>They key inputs are underway and most are anticipated to be finalised by the end of 2021.</p> <p>More information on the Department's Technical Assurance Panel program will be made available in the coming months, including how the community can be involved, however some initial information is available on the Departments website: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Technical-Assurance-Panel</p>

Question	Answer
<p>these burns were close to the Water canal & Nepean River so any residue will end up in our streams. So concerning was this that an anonymous RFS volunteer reported his distress to me. Other toxins, including drums of dangerous chemicals are buried on site. Has this been addressed? Wollondilly council issued a \$5,000 fine to the proponents. Peanuts!</p> <p>10. The waste from Sydney has been trucked into this area at a rate of knots; it is being dumped along the ridge line and injected into the soil on farms owned by Developers. What are the long term affects of this on the environment & river systems? The stench (at times) as you drive along Appin Road is strong & lasting. Clean-away has already been fined for breaching EPA guidelines.</p> <p>11. What effect is coal mining having on the river systems? We have seen evidence of water levels in the Dams dropping rapidly. Mining licences are way too close to these dams & these supply us with our drinking water. South 32 were recently fined after dangerous toxins leaked into the Georges River, yet residents of Appin use this river for recreation (at Marhneys Hole). The mines did not give any notification or warnings to residents despite the very short distance from where the spill occurred. Why? How do south 32 have control over the water flow into the Georges River? In the drought they had to turn it off, with horrendous affects to the wildlife & environment.</p> <p>12. Appin has a very large Water Filtration plant yet parts of Appin are not connected to town water supply why? Some Appin residents have to buy water, not just for household use but farmers have to buy water to fill the dams for livestock in dry times. The water pressure is also a real problem.</p> <p>13. As mentioned above, flooding in the Hawkesbury Nepean River System is common in Macarthur; locally the floods cover & block roads in local towns. One only has to look at the coal seam gas holding tanks that broke their mooring at Menangle & floated down the Nepean River, in a recent flood. One only has to look at the sand, soil quarries & old coal wash workings that are along the edge of the river and understand the environmental damage they are doing. Why is this allowed?</p> <p>14. Water NSW released infrastructure documents 2018 regarding the rural areas of NSW. In their frequently asked Questions it stated this...<i>"Where is the infrastructure Option Study for the Sydney Catchment? Why hasn't it been included as part of this study".....</i> <i>Answer "Water NSW option study covers the rural regulated valleys. It</i></p>	

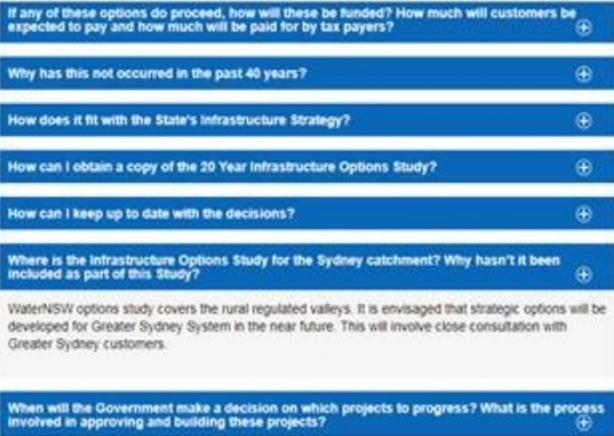
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Answer

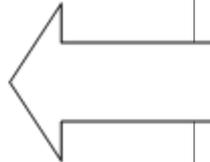
is envisaged that strategic options will be developed for Greater Sydney System in the near future. This will involve close consultation with Greater Sydney Customers."

The Greater Macarthur Land release investigation was announced in 2015 and fast forward to 2018 when this document was released, there is still NO strategic plans for water in place. Are there any further updates on this?

THIS IS TAKEN FROM WATER NSW WEB PAGE.



The screenshot shows a list of seven blue expandable question boxes on a website. The questions are: "If any of these options do proceed, how will these be funded? How much will customers be expected to pay and how much will be paid for by tax payers?", "Why has this not occurred in the past 40 years?", "How does it fit with the State's Infrastructure Strategy?", "How can I obtain a copy of the 20 Year Infrastructure Options Study?", "How can I keep up to date with the decisions?", "Where is the Infrastructure Options Study for the Sydney catchment? Why hasn't it been included as part of this Study?", and "When will the Government make a decision on which projects to progress? What is the process involved in approving and building these projects?". The sixth question is expanded, showing the text: "WaterNSW options study covers the rural regulated valleys. It is envisaged that strategic options will be developed for Greater Sydney System in the near future. This will involve close consultation with Greater Sydney customers."



Related Publications

[20 Year Infrastructure Options Study, June 2018 \(PDF 13.5 MB\)](#)

15. The sewer systems will affect the rivers & streams unless properly constructed. An example of this is Bingara Gorge (Wilton) where as soon as the sewerage treatment experts left the site, short cuts were made & the use of inferior products was implemented. Prior to the sewerage works being constructed truck loads of raw sewerage was transported out daily.
16. When the mains sewer came to Appin, not all existing residents were connected to the sewer despite that being the main objective of the Appin Waste Water Project. Instead, new houses in Appin Valley Development were connected to the mains sewer, leaving some existing residents without mains sewer.
17. Why did Sydney Water decide to under bore the Historic site of Hillsborough on Mt. Gilead estate(aboriginal & European significance) when the sewer was being connected to Appin? Developers have no respect for the Heritage of the Macarthur area. And will the heritage

Question	Answer
<p>dam on Mt. Gilead the first attempt of water conversation in Australia dating back to the early 1800's be irrevocably polluted and damaged by the Lend Lease Development? Should every effort be implemented by Water authorities to make sure this is preserved?</p> <p>18. How come a dam (size of a large swimming pool & deep) has been recently erected at the back of Appin Valley detention pond, thus blocking off the water flow, through Koala habitat land & Cumberland Plains Woodland? Natural Resources Access Regulator authorities have told me nothing can be done about it, that was acting on their satellite imagery</p> <p>19. When Appin Valley was being constructed, Walkers were told by the plant operators that the water detention ponds were a bad design (my son worked on the site) yet it was completely ignored. How can you have mosquito & snake infested detention ponds, next to a Childs playground? These were classed as Green space in the DA's, leaving young residents with a tiny play area. Many young families won't use the play area as it has no shade, and inadequate child safety fencing from the Detention Pond. Will it be too late when a child drowns?</p> <p>20. How can a sewerage pumping station (Appin Valley) be allowed to be built alongside Ouesdale creek, (that flows into the Nepean River)? What safety measures are in place in case of a spill? Tahmoor sewerage plant spill in February 2017 is a perfect example of what could happen in Appin.</p> <p>21. How can this ridge line that runs from Rosemeadow to Wilton be allowed to be put under further threat by Development? Appin & Wilton are the head waters for both of these river systems that surround the Sydney basin & the water is used downstream for drinking, irrigation & recreation. This ridge line forms an important part of the water catchment area. The Geographic's of this ridge line slopes downwards into both the Georges & Nepean Rivers. The area has been rejected by state Government for Mass development since the 1970s on several occasions, what has changed? Simply that Developers have land banked the area.</p> <p>22. Meadowvale impacts on Beulah forest. Woodhouse creek which flows through this Buleah property was reported to EPA & NRAR because the water flow has been cut off by the owner at Meadowvale. He is a property Developer from Sydney. Nothing Done.</p> <p>23. When is enough enough? I have watched legislation being changed to favour Developers. I have watched Developers use Power Brokers to advocate for them on many administrative levels to obtain favourable</p>	

Question	Answer
<p>outcomes. I have watched Developers pay huge amounts of money to defeat the little guy who dares to question them. I have watched the environment being destroyed by Developers. I have watched our Heritage get torn apart with no respect by Developers. I have watched Developers divide & persuade Communities. I have watched Developers groom the most vulnerable. But most importantly in the Greater Macarthur Land Release Area, there is no infrastructure, no employment, no water security, no social or economic impact, and no respect for existing residents' wishes. Major factor we pay your wages to protect our water, please start doing this.</p>	