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To whom it Concerns

It is my wish to make a submission to the Draft of sustainable Water Strategy Northern Region.

Due to the short time restrictions for submissions co-in siding with our fruit harvest season. I am only able to submit the following as dot points which I noted during a DSE Presentation of the discussion paper.

I appreciate that some of my issues may be also covered upon further research of the discussion paper. I still wish to make a submission.

- Government decision to set aside water reserve for following year prior to 100% allocations in current year goes against the principal of allowing irrigators the ability to manage their own water requirement. It would benefit irrigators with high water to land ratio but disadvantage irrigators with Low water to land ratio.
- That new dam sites are considered as part of strategy with sole purpose of improving reliability water supply for Environment, Irrigators and Northern region urban communities in seasons of Limited water available only. Funding such projects would be spread across all user groups. Water in new dams would also be able to substitute consumptive use water in other existing dams freeing up water in other systems for Environment, urban and irrigation critical use
- Current carry over rules regarding loss of carryover water once irrigators combined allocation and carryover exceeds 100%. High reliably water right is too restrictive. It discourages uptake of carryover and may see irrigators having to buy temporary water to raise their allocation above 100% whist losing water due to this restriction ruling.
- I propose that the possibility of a 2 way trading account between consumptive water users and the environment to be considered. The idea being that during high allocation year's consumptive user can transfer water to environmental use i.e. additional flooding, and in dry or low allocation years when environment cycle is naturally dry the environment transfers back to consumptive users.

- This process would require stringent accounting of water transfers and the possible implementation of exchange ratios may have to be considered i.e. 2 mgl in a wet year may equal 1 mgl in a dry year
- The health of the environment is the basis for our healthy and productive agriculture. As already happens in agriculture there is a need to improve the level of environmental management for the future to maximize the benefits of environmental water used .There needs to be a displayable accounting of outcomes gained though environmental management inputs
- Please feel free to make further contact Doug Brown

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