



Tumbarumba
SHIRE COUNCIL

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Trim Ref:
Contact

25th March, 2011

Mr Michael Deegan
National Infrastructure Coordinator
Infrastructure Australia

Dear Michael,

RE: Submission to Infrastructure Australia in regards to the Regional Towns Water Quality and Security Review

Tumbarumba Shire Council would like to submit following comments on the findings and recommendations in the Regional Towns Water Quality and Security Review report prepared by AECOM. Council's comments are as follows:

- No consultation with Local Government in NSW, either at LGSA or Council level;
- No real consultation with the NSW State Government, apart from one meeting with the NSW Office of Water (NOW), in respect of which the input from NOW was apparently given minor consideration;
- Virtually ignores the report and recommendations of the Armstrong/ Gellatly Report into the provision of water supply in non metropolitan areas in NSW (which is still with the NSW Minister but which has still not been to Cabinet and is unlikely to be considered in the life of this State Parliament which ends in March, 2011);
- Ignores the strong performance of NSW Councils in the provision of water supply and sewerage services and the major advantages of Councils continuing to manage and operate critically important integrated water cycle

PO Box 61 Tumbarumba NSW 2653

Phone: 02 6948 9100 Fax: 02 6948 2865

Email: mail@tumbashire.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.tumbashire.nsw.gov.au

ABN 95 644 350 020

- management (water, wastewater, stormwater, drainage, urban planning, health etc), as well as the importance of financial sustainability of Councils;
- Infers that the establishment of Regional Water Corporations in Victoria (removed from Local Government in the 1990's) has been a successful model. This is an unfounded conclusion, because there has been no demonstrated improvement in services, but costs and water charges to consumers have skyrocketed;
- Generally the report has the hallmarks of an academic desktop which is extremely narrow in its vision and scope, and is probably directed towards pre-determined structural, pricing and financial return objectives.

In addition to Council's submission on the Review, Council would like to draw your attention to variations between Council's own records and the Town Water Supply Information provided with the Review in relation to Town No. 32, Tumbarumba. The Town Profile Template containing updated information is attached.

For any further enquiries please contact Council on 0269489114.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Whitehead', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kay Whitehead

General Manager

Appendix C Town Profile Template

TOWN	State/Territory	NSW		
	Town Name	TUMBARUMBA		
	Town Population	1800		
WATER UTILITY	Name of Water Utility	TUMBARUMBA WATER SUPPLY		
	Rate (\$/kL)	\$ 1.37/KL UPTO 200KL , \$ 2.30/K		
	Per Capita Water Consumption (L/day)			
	Number of Connections	406		
CATCHMENT AND WATER SUPPLY	Catchment	MURRAY		
	Sub-Catchment	-		
	Catchment Protection Status	-		
	Potable Water Source(s)	BURRA CREEK (PRIMARY), TUMBARUMBA CREEK (SECONDARY)		
	Supply Capacity	BURRA - 4.0 ML/d , TUMBARUMBA CREEK - 1.7 ML/d		
WATER QUALITY	Treatment Plant(s)	3 ML/d DAFF PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION		
	Level of Treatment	FLOCCULATION, COAGULATION, DAF		
	Drinking Water Guidelines	ADWG 2004		
	Results			
WATER SECURITY	Current Water Restrictions	NO (Has Imposed Level 4 Restriction on 2010)		
	Proportion of Potable Water Supplied to Households (%)	77%		
	Distance from the Coast (km)	~ 200 km		
	Climate			
	Average Annual Rainfall			
		FACTOR	YES/NO	NOTES/EXPLANATION
WATER QUALITY OR SECURITY RISK (CAUSE)	Catchment and Water Supply	Drought		
		Single drinking water source	NO	BURRA CREEK, TUMBARUMBA CREEK & BORE
		Poor quality water source	YES	POOR QUALITY IN TUMBARUMBA CREEK
		Sewage overflow or disposal into water source	NO	
		Flooding	YES	SEPT., OCT., NOV. and DEC. 2010
		Fauna defecating in supply	YES	OPEN WATER SOURCE
		Fauna destroying water intake structures	NO	
		Natural mineral pollutants (e.g. uranium, nitrates, iron, fluoride)	YES	
		Un-lined landfills	NO	
		Extensive agriculture	YES	
		Low vegetation cover (dust, sediment runoff)	NO	
		Poor access to supply	NO	
		Unsustainable water extraction	YES	

		Aquifer turning saline due to high extraction	NO	
		Hard water	NO	
		Aging or inadequate pipe work and associated infrastructure		
		Significant water losses due to leaking pipes	UNKNOWN	
	Governance	High per capita water consumption	NO	
		Inappropriate water quality standards / objectives	NO	
		Lack of infrastructure maintenance	NO	
		Poor management or governance	NO	
		Vandalism / sabotage / terrorism	NO	
		Insufficient trained personnel	NO	
		Inadequate funding for maintenance or upgrades	NO	
	Industries	Mining / minerals	NO	
		Irrigation	YES	
		Chemicals / process	YES	GRAPE/WINE
Population	Seasonal population loadings	NO		
	Rapid population growth	NO		
WATER QUALITY OR SECURITY RISK (EFFECT)	Pathogenic contamination			
	Algal blooms			
	Heavy metal contamination	YES		
	Poor chlorine residuals		FREE CHLORINE IS NOT TESTED	
	Pesticide contamination		NOT TESTED	
	Boil water notices	YES	October 2010 Because of flooding	
	Deaths or illness due to water quality	NO		
	Water restrictions (current and historic)	YES		
	Taste and odour issues	NO		
	Other contamination that would affect health			
	Notes		WATER QUALITY PROBLEM HAS BEEN ADDRESSED CONSTRUCTING A NEW 3ML/d DAFF WATER TREATMENT PLANT.	