



## Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council Inc.

Robert Crawford  
**President**

Tanya Thompson  
**Executive Officer**

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**Environment Manager**

26 March 2021

Ms Liz Livingstone  
Chief Executive Officer  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW  
Level 15, 2-24 Rawson Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Livingstone

### **Submission for the continuation and increase in the Yanco Creek Levy**

Further to our initial correspondence on 21 January 2021 where we communicated the history of Yanco Creek System, YACTAC's new strategic plan which covers our vision, focus areas and objectives for the next ten years, this letter is a formal submission to IPART.

YACTAC will continue to drive a program that ensures maintenance of a creek system which is used for the delivery of water for the many essential activities throughout the system. In addition YACTAC also focuses the environmental health of the creek system, which is directly linked to water quality, and has a strong connection with the various communities located within the footprint.

The success of the original NRMP depended upon engagement of community and government. Partnerships matured over the life of that plan and many targets were met. YACTAC continues to be actively engaged with various stakeholders and levels of government, such as (but not limited to):

- WaterNSW
- DPIE – Water, EES, SDLAM
- DPI Fisheries
- LLS
- EWAG
- CEWO
- DAWE
- MDBA
- Landcare
- Murray Collective and many more local groups

The following on-ground programs are some of the successes over the past four years.

- Willow Eradication Program has moved into a management phase, with willows being targeted twice per year.
- Willow Removal along Forest Creek – YACTAC funded
- Aquatic and Noxious Weed Control – YACTAC funded
- Environmental Flow Study - YACTAC funded

- Platypus eDNA. – co-funded with LLS and Wettenhall Trust.
- Riparian Corridor Management – co-funded with LLS.
- Bird species surveys, wetland management surveys.
- Installation of infrastructure to deliver water to Wanganella Wetlands – co-funded with OEH.
- Wetland monitoring.
- Frog monitoring and reporting in conjunction with CSU – YACTAC funded.
- Wanganella Wetland 2019/20 watering event inundation extent and vegetation response report.

The Yanco Creek System levy is imperative to ensure maintenance of riparian and aquatic areas so that the creek system is maintained as a viable delivery source of water, as WaterNSW does not consider maintenance of creek systems as their responsibility.

Leading up to the August Annual General Meeting significant consultation was undertaken with members. Recently we also held 5 community meetings across the footprint and confirmed over whelming support for the proposed cost structure from 1 July 2021. It is widely believed that this levy enables the creek system to remain a viable irrigation source in addition to maintaining and improving the health of the creek. The YCS is also an integral link between the Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers.

Since the inception of the levy the rate has not increased and is still charged at \$0.90/ML on WAL holders of general security, high security, Local Water Utilities, S&D.

Just keeping pace with CPI (since 2005) would put the levy at \$1.25/ML.

It was proposed that the levy should at least keep up with inflation and that there should be a catch up period to bring the levy in line with the lost CPI increases.

In order to continue the maintenance along the creek system and to ensure creek health, a motion has been passed:

- 2021/2022      \$0.90 per ML + 10% = .99 + CPI
- 2022/2023      2021/22 value + 10% of that value + CPI
- 2023/2024      2022/23 value + 10% of that value + CPI
- 2024/2025      2023/2024 + CPI only

As such, YACTAC submits the above proposed levy increase to be endorsed by IPART.

Yours sincerely



Robert (Bob) Crawford  
**President**