

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Water Mailbox](#)
Subject: RE: IPART submission - WaterNSW draft report
Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 5:46:36 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

27 April 2020

Sydney Water Pricing Draft Determination Apr 2020 SUBMISSION

Save Mount Gilead Inc strongly supports any attempt at water security for the Macarthur region but after examination of this Draft Determination our concern is that this IPART attempt does not achieve that goal.

The solution being recommended is a “water shuffling” exercise on a grand scale (and at grand cost) and does not increase overall quantity of water for consumers. Additional water quantity is the only true measure of increased water security, and everything else is “smoke and mirrors,” in short, a fudge.

With population increases, climate change and hotter, more bushfire prone extended summers being forecast for the Macarthur region the importance of that additional quantity needed cannot be stressed enough. And remember, water in dams, does not mean that it is automatically usable water.

During the 2019 drought and summer bush fires when dams servicing Macarthur reached around 20% capacity,(Cataract and Cordeaux dams) it became obvious they didn't have to be completely empty to become unusable. Naturally occurring minerals dissolved in these lower depth waters meant these dams had to be taken off line for potable water. No doubt the same would have occurred for Warragamba should that dam have reached a similar level.

Anything like this was not generally known by the public, until it actually happened, and demonstrates the need for more research and better information being provided and communicated by the water authorities. If the public has better understanding of the problems and complexities of providing water it will be more cooperative and compliant when it comes to drought restrictions

We notice that the Draft Determination does not include the pipeline cost and IPART's deferring the half billion dollar capital project to pipe water backwards from Prospect to Macarthur is to be congratulated as it made no sense. Why not just mothball the Upper Canal and not send water to Prospect in the first place?

It is not as though Warragamba is a secure water supply any longer for a rapidly growing Sydney and adding Macarthur to the list of suburbs that have to be serviced by this dam would fail to increase Macarthur's water security and further diminish the water security for the whole of Sydney.

The first stage of the Mt Gilead/Figtree Hill urban release area was controversial and progressed on the basis that water and wastewater plans would be “satisfactory” and in place by the time of development. It was uncertain if wastewater would be mains or “pump out” and, if the latter, would sewage trucking along Appin Road be acceptable to the Campbelltown community? With regards to potable water, well, it's coming from Rosemeadow Reservoir. But the big question, *Where is the water coming from to fill Rosemeadow Reservoir?* was never asked and we know now that Macarthur dams are insufficient, especially in droughts. Similarly, costs for delivering all this infrastructure

were “hazy” at best and are those costs going to be passed on to the consumer/homeowner?

We have been informed that the Planning Minister Robert Stokes has been given approval to fast-track developments to facilitate economic recovery in the wake of the Corona virus pandemic. Proper planning for Mt Gilead and the Macarthur region has been in short supply to date and we are concerned that any such fast-tracking will be at the cost of proper planning assessment and will ultimately adversely affect all aspects of life for those living here.

We would appreciate IPART relaying our concerns to the NSW State Government.

Save Mt. Gilead Inc.