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Snowy Water Licence Review

Intergovernmental and Strategic Stakeholder Relations

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Effect of Environmental Releases on access to "Waterford" Portions 22, 39, 38 downstream on the Snowy River south of Jindabyne Dam.

Dear Sir,

I request the attached submission be considered in the forthcoming review of the Snowy Water Licence and seek your consideration of my comments which address issues pertaining to the licence.

I wish to discuss the problem of access to my property "Waterford". This also affects four properties in total. I have lived on my property for almost 30 years. I have always forded the Snowy River during this time, the access I refer to being available for at least 50 years. There haven't been any problems until the environmental releases commenced, except for the occasional severe weather events causing the river to rise. This may affect access to properties for a day or two which we accept and cope with. Recently, the environmental releases have caused the river to rise where I couldn't get home for 9 days. The forecast releases for the next two months (September and October) will result in me being unable to cross the river for 49 days. Following this, a 5 day window for access followed again by another 11 days of high river flows. This is very unacceptable and is causing me grief, affecting my business and resulting in me having to seek alternative accommodation in Cooma. Basically it is destroying my life and my business.

Most important though, my son and I have cows and bulls in paddocks which require water and monitoring to make sure they are contained and healthy. The cows are calving at present and it is

essential they be monitored in case of problems. If we don't keep an eye on them we stand to lose a higher percentage while calving. I wouldn't know if the animals are on our property or not when I am unable to access my home and business. This year we have also had major feral deer and kangaroo infestation, together with low rainfall, which has resulted in insufficient feed and caused us to supplement stock feed by hand. Again this requires a constant presence on the farm.

As a result of the Jindabyne dam the very significant reduced water flow allowed us to cross the river and the council even maintained the road from Berridale to the Snowy River. In the past, when unable to cross the Snowy due to weather events and high river levels, we were able to access our properties through adjoining neighbours, but recently due to change of ownership, they have indicated they do not want us going through their properties and one has even chained the gate. This is very unfortunate, because for at least 50 years since the Jindabyne dam was completed, the number of days where we had to use this alternative access was minimal. In fact since the dam, the access via Werralong Road has been the norm and council have maintained it by grading two or three times a year. However, previously to the dam, the only access was through neighbour's properties as you were unable to cross the Snowy due to high river flows. To my knowledge this has been available for at least 100 years and probably since settlement. The neighbours track was well maintained and had cattle grids.

I am desperate and don't know what to do.....I consistently feel very depressed and sick in the stomach.

The politicians involved at the time went out on a high note. But there was no thought about the people it affected. DPI hasn't shown any duty of care towards the people they are destroying.

I wish to acknowledge I am not against the environmental releases that were decided between the NSW and Victorian governments a few years ago, to help restore the Snowy that had suffered environmental degradation since the construction of Jindabyne dam in 1967. However as mentioned above, the releases have impacted our access (and probably many properties downstream) to the extent that we now require access through neighbouring properties as was the case prior to 1967. If this is not possible then a causeway or similar should be considered across the Snowy.

This access problem has caused me untold grief and I am very depressed. The situation is becoming out of control and I am pleading with you to exercise a duty of care to property owners such as myself.

Regards

Alex G Andrich