Lower Darling options

A number of options have been identified to address the long-term water security issues in the Lower Darling. The NSW Government is strategically analysing options, as well as undertaking broader targeted consultation, to seek feedback on various options including (but not limited to):

1. structural adjustment package for the buy-back of water entitlements adversely impacted by the Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project. This option would be supplemented by one of the following infrastructure solutions:
   a. pipelines to Pooncarie, down from Weir 32 and up from the Murray River, to maintain stock and domestic water supply
   b. a pipeline from the Murray River up to Weir 32 to maintain stock and domestic water supply
2. infrastructure works to create more on-farm storage
3. infrastructure works for in-stream regulators, which includes the following two sub-options:
   a. Four in-stream weirs along the Darling River at Ashvale, Jamesville, Ringwood and downstream of the Great Darling Anabranch
   b. The four in-stream weirs proposed in 3(a), above, and 13 Tallywalka boreholes
4. pipeline to connect Pooncarie to the Wentworth to Broken Hill (W2BH) Pipeline
5. pipeline infrastructure work to service all entitlements and users, which includes the following two sub-options:
   a. pipelines to Pooncarie down from Weir 32 and up from the Murray River to supply all entitlements and users
   b. pipeline from the Murray River up to Weir 32 to supply all entitlements and users.
6. re-scoping the Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project to maintain a drought reserve, maintaining the Lower Darling’s long-term reliance on the Menindee Lakes system. This would likely have flow-on impacts on the potential water savings.

The pipeline options proposed are currently being considered only during times of critical water shortage and are not expected to be used or needed most of the time. For the majority of the time, the availability and quality of water in the Lower Darling is anticipated to be as good as or better than under current operations.

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