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2 March 2011

The Hon. Anthony Albanese
Minister for Infrastructure Transport Regional Development & Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 2600

RECEIVED MPS

11 MAR 2011

Dear Minister

REVIEW OF REGIONAL WATER QUALITY AND SECURITY

Council is aware of the Review of Regional Water Quality and Security Report, released on 31 January 2011, which was compiled without consultation with Local Government in New South Wales. The Local Government & Shires Association are concerned about the findings and has requested that the Federal Government consult with Local Government in New South Wales before acting on the Report.

At a Council meeting held 16 February 2011 a motion was approved that this Council write to you and formally request that the Review of Regional Water Quality and Security Report be discussed at length with the Local Government & Shires Association.

The Local Government Association and the Local Government Shires Association along with this Council strongly object to its key recommendations that Local Water Utilities (LWUs) should be amalgamated and transformed into State Government owned and Regional Water Corporations.

This Council is part of the Riverina and Murray Regional Group of Councils, which strongly responded to a similar NSW State Review by arguing that Councils should maintain the operation of water and waste water services, however, improved strategic alliances was recommended as an improved method of delivering these services. There appeared to be some general acceptance that alliances could be a viable option in terms of the delivery of water and waste water services. However, the final decision has never been made. The loss of water and waste water services would have a severe impact on Council's Management Plan.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me on ☎ (03) 5027 5002.

Yours faithfully

Peter Kozłowski
General Manager