



The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

IM18/12489

Professor Johann Bell
Chair
Recreational Fishing NSW
b.johann9@gmail.com

Dear Professor Bell *Johann*

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2018 concerning access to Lake Wallace near Nimmitabel for recreational fishing.

It is important to note that Lake Wallace is a unique circumstance where an Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) Offset Management Plan (OMP), implemented by the state, was used to limit public access for recreation to an area. Snowy Monaro Regional Council has since argued in great detail that access would compromise water quality and could damage the sensitive areas listed in the OMP. Unfortunately, as the land surrounding Lake Wallace is freehold to Council, access to the site is at the discretion of Council.

Despite this, I fully support the proposal put forward by RFNSW to allow recreational fishing on Lake Wallace.

I am not content with the Council's decision and I have asked NSW DPI to meet with the Council to ensure they are aware of the relatively low risk of granting recreational fishing access. I will ensure you are updated on these discussions as they occur.

As RFNSW is aware, the NSW Government will be undertaking a risk assessment of Sydney catchment storages. The general principals used to determine specific water quality risk and recommended outcomes found in the feasibility study could be used along with other standards and currently-in-use criteria to argue for better access to this and other storages.

NSW DPI has identified and classified 66 storages across NSW that could provide fishing amenity. While each of these storages would need to be assessed individually, most if not all storages have already been assessed by NSW DPI in some manner. The criteria for identifying storages are linked to existing land use, end water use, water delivery mechanisms and the proposed fishing activity.

If you require additional information, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Cameron Westaway, Snr Fisheries Manager Inland, with the Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries, on 0428 946 126.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

20 AUG 2018

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