



20 DEC-2007

Office of the Mayor

17 December 2007

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
Chair of Standing Committee on Planning & Environment
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	15
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	7/2/2008

Dear Mr Gentleman,

Enquiry into Water Use and Management in the ACT

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission to your enquiry.

Council's Water Management Committee at its meeting of the 12 December 2007 considered the terms of reference the enquiry and considered that these were generally related to how the ACT manages its water resources however in relation to point

d. The role of Canberra as Australia's National Capital and provider of water to the largest population in the Murray Darling Basin.

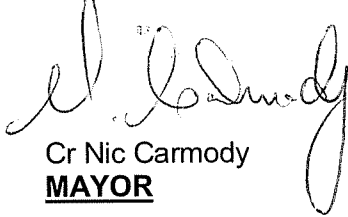
it is the view of Council that the ACT through the ACTEW Corporation should consider its role as a potential regional water supplier with due considering the matters:

- (i) the region should at a minimum be considered to be the urban environments that currently have strong linkages to the ACT including , Queanbeyan, Yass, Murrumbateman, Bungendore and Sutton.
- (ii) the above communities are inextricably linked to the ACT by way of economic, social values.
- (iii) Yass Water Supply relies on the flows of the Yass River which is sustainable under current climatic condition but may become tenuous under extremes of climate change an alternate supply is likely to be required in the long term.
- (iv) Murrumbateman Water Supply relies on groundwater which is very much an unknown resource.

- (v) the Cross Border Water Supply Agreement provides parameters for water to be provided to Yass Valley Local Government Area however this document was compiled without reference to Council and requires amendment to be a cooperative working document.
- (vi) ACTEW/AGL has the resources to provide manage and maintain infrastructure beyond the boundaries of the ACT.
- (vii) provision of regular reports on the water quality of the Murrumbidgee River discharging across the border into NSW.

Should you require any technical details in relation to Yass or Murrumbateman Water supply systems please contact the Assistant General Manager Operations, Mr David Rowe on 62261477.

Yours sincerely



Cr Nic Carmody
MAYOR