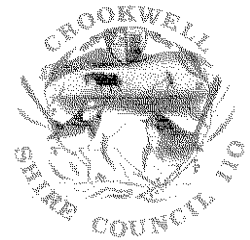


# Crookwell Shire Council



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Our Ref:

**bw:ab**

**Please quote when responding:**

13 August, 2002

**SUBMISSION NO. 77**

**RECEIVED**

15 AUG 2002

PARL SEC'S  
OFFICE

The Parliamentary Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Secretary: *al/bw*

**RECEIVED**

2 SEP 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES  
AND FORESTRY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference is made to the inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities. The following comments are submitted in that regard:

- \* The Commonwealth should play a significant role in water resource planning. Like other natural resource issues (land degradation, salinity, etc) it is essential that the various matters be addressed by all tiers of government. In that regard state and local governments trying to address such issues in their own "locations" will not lead to integrated and co-ordinated solutions. The Commonwealth must take the role of initiating federal "programmes" on such matters and involve state and local government processes. Such an approach does not mean that the Commonwealth is the responsible funding authority, but rather the issue be addressed as a national programme.
- \* Without a national approach on water management issues there is no possibility of an integrated approach on the matter. In that regard, Crookwell Shire Council as "manager" of a water supply for a rural population of 2,500 is not aware of Commonwealth policies and programmes that underpin stability of storage and supply of water for domestic consumption and other purposes. Council regards the State Government as the overriding authority. This perception does not reflect a national approach to an issue that affects all residents of Australia.
- \* What are the commonwealth policies and programmes on current and future water use in rural Australia? I am not aware of same and am sure the majority of the community is not.

- \* There needs to be forums held on water management issues that bring together or integrate the various approaches, responsibilities being undertaken by each tier of government. In that respect Crookwell Shire does not refer to Commonwealth policies in assessing future water management planning.
- \* Water management is a major component in the provision of facilities, services and economic/community development initiatives for rural Australia. If that issue is not addressed in a co-ordinated and integrated manner, then there is little chance of other Commonwealth, State, Local Government programmes relating to rural Australia being successful in the long term.

The opportunity to provide input on this matter is appreciated by Council.

Yours faithfully

  
B Wilkinson  
**General Manager**