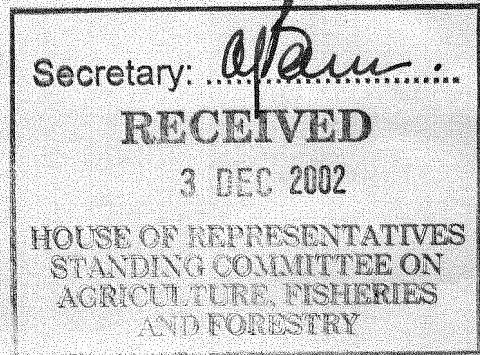


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26 November 2002

Dr Andrew Brien  
Secretary  
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2060



Dear Dr Brien

**RE: INQUIRY INTO FUTURE WATER SUPPLIES FOR AUSTRALIA'S INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES**

Thank you and the Committee for your visit to Golden Plains Shire on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2002 as part of your inquiry into future water supplies. Your visit was warmly welcomed by those invited to the lunch and discussion.

Further to our submission dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2002 and discussions on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, I would like to add to our submission by highlighting an important issue regarding the complexities of delegated responsibilities for water in Victoria.

There are a number of authorities which are responsible for water in our region. The authorities are the Department of Natural Resources and Environment; Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water and Southern Rural Water.

The level of bureaucracy and the number of authorities and delegations of responsibilities related to water issues causes confusion and limits the ability to engage in a holistic approach to water issues. A good example of approval of a dam was supplied to the Committee during their visit to Golden Plains Shire.

Council looks forward to the findings of the inquiry and would be pleased to provide any further assistance or information to the Committee if required.

Yours faithfully

**ROD NICHOLLS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**