

Survey Submission Confirmation: Review of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme) Regulation 2002

Survey Name:	Review of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme) Regulation 2002
Submitted On:	19/02/2016 3:33:43 PM
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Q 13: Please add your comments	
	<p>The Bylong Valley Protection Alliance is anxious to ensure that the broader framework of any reviewed HRTS places greater emphasis on the assessment and understanding of cumulative impacts of mining on the Scheme and its operation.</p> <p>Since its inception there has been very strong expansion of mining operations in the catchment. In our part of the world (Upper Goulburn) we have seen the development of new mines and the</p>

expansion of existing operations. Locally in Bylong we are facing the prospect of a greenfields project proposed by KEPCO.

The salt load accumulating from the Upper Goulburn to the Hunter is considerable and stands to only grow further. Without a proper consideration of cumulative impacts we are concerned that effective operation of the HRTS - especially with regard to the achievement of key environmental outcomes - may be considerably compromised

In recent years during flood events we have seen local mines given permission to discharge uncontrolled amounts of polluted mine water for lengthy periods (months at a time). This practice must cease. We object to the retention of flood flow exemptions; Clause 26 should be removed altogether and, instead, ALL mine discharge dealt with under the Scheme's system of credits.

In a similar vein, we support any moves to prohibit discharge into low flows.

In conclusion, we wish to express our support for the HRTS as a mechanism for dealing with rising salinity in the greater catchment. Certainly it is a vast improvement on the situation as it existed prior to its inception. Our overriding interest is in seeing it appropriately strengthened in the context of continued mine expansion.

Yours faithfully,

Craig Shaw
Secretary
Bylong Valley Protection Alliance Inc

Q 14: Or, upload your comments

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