

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
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Q 13: Please add your comments	
	Review of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Hunter Salinity Trading Scheme) Regulation 2002 Submission: The Hunter Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS) has been a successful strategy for managing rising salinity levels in the Hunter River by controlling and limiting mine water discharge.

The ongoing expansion of coal mining across the Hunter catchment particular in the upper Hunter and Goulburn River is placing unacceptable cumulative pressure on river health and resilience in the face of climate change.

There needs to be a greater understanding of the natural water systems and impact of mining in this region to better inform future development particularly coal mining and expansions and coal seam gas exploration.

This submission supports:

- The EPA review recommendations to raise the current flood flow thresholds. The flood flow exemption should also be removed (clause 26); there should be no low flow discharges.
- Further investigation and identification of the the major sources of salt on a sub-catchment basis. Research and monitoring needs to include a range of water quality parameters and indicators including macro-invertebrate health, identification and monitoring of groundwater dependent ecosystems (in addition to EC and pH).
- Funding of essential research to establish background conditions, and cumulative impacts from mining discharges (point and diffuse)
- Amendment to section 295I of the POEO Act that limits on how the scheme funds can be used to include environmental research into catchment

Q 14: Or, upload your comments

N/A

Q 15: Do you give the permission for the EPA to make your submission public?

Yes
