

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE HUNTER RIVER SALINITY TRADING SCHEME

To:

POEO (HRSTS) Regulation Review

Reform and Compliance Branch

Environment Protection Authority

I wish to make a submission to this review. The original Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme was a great improvement on the parlous unregulated discharge system that preceded it.

Since then there are many more mines in the Hunter and it needs further tightening to control the cumulative impacts of these.

I am especially concerned that the proposed expansion of mines west of Muswellbrook will put extra pressure on that part of the Hunter River and greatly increase the cumulative impacts overall.

The fact that there has been no study on the longterm regional impacts on the Hunter river system is a concern and ought to be a reason for using the precautionary principle in amending these regulations. And of course such study should be undertaken.

This could be funded by the salinity credit auctions and sales.

I consider that there should be no discharge into the river system at low flows, and I do not support the flood flow exemption.

Clause 26 must be removed; there should be NO discharge of polluted mine water except under the HRTS credits.

Yours sincerely

Sharyn Munro

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