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From: robert mclaughlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2014 2:10 PM
To: EPA Continuous Improvement Unit Mailbox
Subject: FW: Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Review

I am writing to support the EPA initiatives.

As a PID user (acc. [REDACTED]) I am very concerned about increased salinity levels.

The Hunter River is our lifeline and is very much under threat from the irresponsibly planned further expansion of the Hunter Valley coal mines.

Hunter River salinity is growing and this is a very complex problem that only people (excluding those in the mining industry) directly involved in its use really appreciate and understand.

The 900 EC target should be lowered to improve water quality for wider range of irrigated crops and align with World Health Organisation standard which is a maximum of 800 EC for drinking water.

I support the removal of the flood flow exemption so that salinity credits are needed for all mine discharges.

Additional revenue generated via salinity credit auctions should be invested in the monitoring and assessment of the high EC levels in Wollombi Brook at Warkworth, a more comprehensive and representative groundwater monitoring program for the Hunter catchment and studies to fully understand the effects of the different components of mine and power station discharge water (eg metals/metalloid contaminations).

I would also like to see increased public transparency and access to information on water quality data and results of investigations into the health of the river system.

Yours sincerely
Robert McLaughlin

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