



Concerns raised over unregulated water sharing plan

March 4, 2025

Local farmers in the Warren Shire region have expressed concern over the recently released unregulated Water Sharing Plan for the Bogan, Macquarie and Castlereagh catchments, citing issues with the mapping process and lack of consultation.

The Warren Shire Council sent a submission highlighting a key concern: the designation of small wetlands across the landscape, conducted through a process solely through desktop mapping without on-ground verification. “We could not understand their methodology, and there was no ground truthing,” said Warren Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Greg Whiteley.

Councillor Whiteley, who’s also a producer in the region, emphasised the importance of ensuring water management policies are both accurate and transparent. “Farmers should be properly consulted in decisions that impact their operations. Many were unaware that wetlands had been designated on their properties, some of which were in the middle of cropping paddocks rather than genuine wetland areas,” he said.

The submission process also raised concerns, with the initial deadline set for the week after New Year. While an extension of 28 days was granted, stakeholders still found the timeframe challenging. “The process was onerous, especially given the significant implications for farmers,” Councillor Whiteley added.

Following feedback from Warren Shire and other stakeholders, it is understood that relevant authorities are now reassessing the mapping and reviewing submissions. “While they started off defensive, it appears they are reconsidering aspects of the plan,” he said.

Council will continue to advocate for local farmers, ensuring their voices are heard in water management decisions that directly impact their livelihoods and the region’s agricultural future.

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