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NSW 2800
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Wednesday 11 December 2019

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Premier,

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an umbrella organisation representing conservation groups and individuals in central west NSW working to protect the local environment for future generations.

CWEC is very concerned about the ongoing threats from the NSW Deputy Premier and Water Minister to pull NSW out of the Basin Plan.

We understand that you, as Premier of NSW, gave continued support to the Basin Plan at the COAG meeting in August 2019. We expect NSW to uphold these commitments in the national interest.

The list of demands proposed to be presented at the Minco meeting on 17 December are unreasonable and not in the interest of the bipartisan agreement signed up to by the NSW Government when the Basin Plan was adopted in 2012.

While there are a number of problems with the implementation of the Basin Plan, in regard to outcomes for river health, it is critical that the full 450 GL be recovered to ensure the long-term viability and resilience of the river system.

NSW is the largest extractor of water from the Murray-Darling Basin and must continue to co-operate with agreements to recover water back to a sustainable diversion limit.

CWEC considers that water management in NSW has been chaotic under the watch of National Party water ministers. It is in the interest of better governance for this critical natural resource to be in the hands of a minister without a conflict of interest.

We trust you Premier to make sure that NSW is a responsible partner in the Basin Plan. This includes getting the Water Resource Plans lodged on time.

A response to this correspondence would be appreciated. Please contact me at: ckinross@csu.edu.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "C. M. Kinross".

President