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Your submission for this review:

A Response to Water NSW's Statement on Water Security While Water NSW's statement that their decisions will support the long-term security of water entitlements and reliability of water supply in regional and rural NSW may sound promising on the surface, it falls short when compared to the lived realities of farmers, communities, and the environment in these regions. Over the years, residents of rural and regional NSW have witnessed a stark contrast between the promises made by Water NSW and the actual impact of their policies. For too long, Water NSW has been collecting substantial amounts of money from communities and farmers, yet the improvements to water infrastructure and storage capacity have remained woefully inadequate. This persistent failure to invest in essential infrastructure such as dams, reservoirs, and efficient water delivery systems means that water security in rural NSW remains an ongoing crisis. Farmers, who are the backbone of the regions economy, face increasing uncertainty as they struggle to access water when they need it most. Water entitlements, while guaranteed on paper, are often rendered useless when there is no water to be allocated. The system of water trading, often favoured by Water NSW, only exacerbates the problem by allowing water to be sold off to the highest bidder, leaving farmers with inadequate supply and often pushing them to the brink of financial ruin. In addition to farmers, the broader community also suffers. Rural towns depend on reliable water sources not only for agriculture but for basic domestic and industrial use. With inconsistent water supply, many towns are forced to rely on temporary, emergency measures often at great expense to meet their daily needs. The impact on local economies, health, and overall quality of life cannot be overstated. The environmental toll is equally concerning. While the focus has largely been on meeting the demands of human consumption, ecosystems dependent on healthy water flows continue to be neglected. Wetlands, river systems, and native habitats are often left to dry up, with the little water that is available being diverted to meet the needs of commercial users. Without proper investment in long-term water management and sustainable practices, these vital ecosystems will continue to degrade, causing irreparable damage to biodiversity. Water NSW's decision-making, as it stands, has failed to address these critical issues. While they claim to be focused on water security and reliability, their actions often suggest otherwise. Until there is significant investment in infrastructure to improve storage capacity and delivery systems, and a shift towards more equitable and environmentally sustainable water management practices, the people and environment of rural and regional NSW will continue to bear the brunt of this mismanagement. Its time for Water NSW to move beyond empty promises and start delivering tangible solutions. This requires a clear commitment to investing in the infrastructure that will actually improve the ability to store and distribute water ensuring that farmers, communities, and the environment have access to this precious resource when they need it most. The long-term security of water entitlements can only be guaranteed when we first address the glaring deficiencies in the system that holds these entitlements in the first place. In summary, improve the water infrastructure so everyone in the system can be entitled to their allocation as they should, before just jacking up the price and making empty promises.