

1. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Can WaterNSW please provide the Committee with WaterNSW organisational chart?

Yes, see Attachment A

Noting that the Peel Valley has typically relatively low usage, what happens to the water in storage in the Peel Valley that is not used?

In the Peel Valley the water that is allocated but not used remains in Chaffey Dam. This valley's water sharing plan (*Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*) operates on an annual accounting system, so unused allocation is forfeited from licence accounts on 30 June each year. This forfeited water ~~is~~ then becomes part of the water resource available for the initial Available Water Determination on 1 July. That is, there are no carryover rules in the Peel water sharing plan.

However in certain years Chaffey Dam spills. Spills are a function of inflows and use. That is lower use, increases the likelihood, frequency and volume of spills.

Water that is spilt represents a loss of resource from the consumptive pool for that valley. The Peel water sharing plan does not have supplementary access licences, and access to "uncontrolled flows" by Peel general security licences is not available when general security availability is above 35%, which would be the case when the dam is full and spilling.

Water that is spilt will flow into the next valley and may become available for use in that valley in accordance with its water sharing plan. In the case of the Peel, the next valley along the system is Namoi.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Do you [WaterNSW] have suggestions and views about the current air space management arrangements for NSW water storages? How can this be improved?

WaterNSW's dams are operated to provide water security and reliability for downstream uses. As such, WaterNSW aims to keep storages as full as possible.

Consequently, WaterNSW's dams can provide a degree of flood mitigation, particularly in smaller floods, but our mitigation ability diminishes in large and extreme floods.

WaterNSW's operations during floods and spill are set out in the relevant Water Sharing Plans, which include airspace operations. These arrangements reflect the outcomes of many decades of experience and community consultation, and they confirm the prioritisation of water security over flood mitigation.

WaterNSW works within this framework to increase potential flood mitigation capability without compromising water security. WaterNSW continuously updates its airspace procedures with the latest weather and flood forecasting information systems. As there are improvements in accuracy and confidence in these forecasts, this allows WaterNSW to operate greater airspace in dams prior to floods without increasing risk to water security.

















