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**The Hon. Andrew James Constance, MP**  
Minister for Transport & Roads  
Member for Bega  
[bega@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bega@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## THE BROGO DAM UPGRADE

Dear Mr Constance,

Firstly, on behalf of the NSW Irrigators' Council (NSWIC), I would offer our condolences for the great suffering and damage that the bushfires have inflicted upon your Bega Electorate. Our organisation hopes for a speedy recovery and a prosperous future for your constituents.

NSWIC's local member Bega Cheese, has had a long-term interest in the increased availability, access and reliability of water, for not just farming but also for the general population and other users. NSWIC understands that during the period of Minister Niall Blair's tenure, there was strong interest in not just raising the height of Brogo Dam, but building a new pipeline and creating a hydro power generation capacity. These proposed changes were identified in the *20-Year Infrastructure Study Options* by Water NSW, at a cost of \$335M in 2017-18.

As you are keenly aware, the core reason for building the Brogo Dam was to provide a reliable supply of water for the dairy industry, which is the main agricultural industry on the NSW South Coast. The dam supplies water to irrigate pastures for the Bega Valley's dairy industry, and to the towns and other farmers along the Brogo and Bega Rivers. Investing in improving Brogo Dam is therefore critical to the long-term viability of this highly renowned dairy industry in the Bega Valley. Given that the opening water allocation for this water year for Brogo Dam and South Coast water users was just 0.4 megalitres per unit share (for General-Security licence holders), it is little wonder that farmers and other water users are thinking ahead to the local infrastructure needs. Despite the Brogo Dam identified by WaterNSW in the *20-Year Infrastructure Study Options*, there appears to be little progress on this important project.

NSWIC would greatly appreciate your views on the Brogo Dam upgrade project, and what we can expect from the Berejiklian Government in this term of Government.

Yours sincerely,

**Luke Simpkins**  
**Chief Executive Officer**