# Logo_Colour2 Lachlan Valley Water Inc

#  ABN 38 597 032 631 Sustainable, productive and efficient water use in the Lachlan Valley

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**Media Release**

**22 November 2023**

“Hoorah for NRAR – Grandstanding at its finest”

NRAR has released information aimed at damaging the reputation of the irrigation industry in a blatant attempt at self-justification for their existence; that’s the opinion of Lachlan Valley Water Executive Officer, Glenn Daley.

An NRAR media release, issued yesterday, sensationally claimed an “Oberon dams worth of water” has been overdrawn, and then goes on cite the example of an irrigator from an incident last year that has already been rectified.

“It’s disappointing NRAR has taken this avenue, but understandable given how much flak they’ve copped in the recent WaterNSW’s pricing community working group meetings, where both water users and non-water users are questioning the need for an additional regulatory body and the additional costs associated with it,” said Mr Daley.

The media release also indicated that water users return the overdrawn water but notes it’s an offence to operate in this manner.

Page 14 of NRAR’s 2022 Progress Report states: “Each quarter, over 26 thousand access licences are reviewed and to date the overall compliance rate is 99%.” It further states “As a result of the audits conducted during this period, NRAR identified 9 cases of potentially overdrawn water accounts. We sent 16 advisory and 19 warning letters to licence holders. Almost 50 cases needed no further action, but 13 cases were referred for possible further investigation and enforcement.”

Daley says “As you can see, NRAR’s own report indicates nearly 100% compliance, with water users following the rules. The water industry is heavily regulated, and irrigation water users are amongst the most diligent when it comes to understanding and operating within the rules”.

The NRAR was established following the investigation into water management and compliance conducted in 2017, the result of which called for an independent and more effective regulatory body, with responsibility for water regulation in NSW. Prior to NRAR, these functions were split between NSW Government and WaterNSW.

Dr Adam Kerezsy, a fish biologist based at Lake Cargelligo said “From what I can tell, landowners are already pretty confused by the large number of agencies - both state and federal - with an interest in water. It's difficult to see how the establishment of a stand-alone agency responsible only for compliance will contribute to this situation in a positive way.”

“It’s telling that the NRAR media release uses an irrigator as the example of an Enforced Undertaking; no mention on the $2.9M Enforced Undertaking given to a coal mine earlier this year. Irrigators put food on plates, not money in the pockets of government” says Daley. “The real issue is are Australian’s getting value for money from NRAR? I think not. The NRAR media release yesterday is nothing more than a publicity stunt aimed at trying to justify their budget and existence” he said.

For more information contact Lachlan Valley Water Chairman, Glenn Daley on 0411 447 025, or email eo@lvw.com.au

NRAR Progress Report 2002:

<https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/541234/NRAR-Progress-Report-2022-.pdf>

Lachlan Valley Water (LVW) is the valley-based industry organisation representing surface water and groundwater users in the Lachlan and Belubula valleys. Our members include irrigators, stock and domestic water users, other industries including mining, landholders exercising basic land rights and all categories of licences except for those held by environmental water managers.

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