



Australian Government

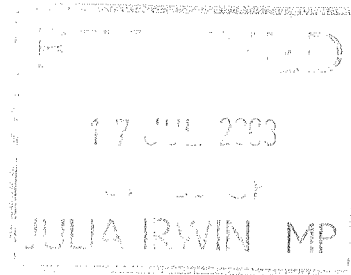
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PETITIONS

received 21.7.08

C08/5545

Ms Julia Irwin MP
Chair of the Standing Committee of Petitions
PO Box 6021
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 2600



Dear Ms Irwin

I refer to your letters of 17 March 2008 to the Hon Penny Wong concerning petitions regarding Green, Dock and Natimuk Lakes. The Minister has passed your letters to me for reply. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Under the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline project agreement with the Victorian Government up to 3,000 megalitres per year of water savings are to be allocated for recreational lake use. The allocation of this water to the recreational lakes and weir pools in the region is the responsibility of the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Authority (GWM). The allocation of water to the lakes has been the subject of ongoing community consultation by GWM.

GWM have provided advice that in consultation with the Reservoirs Review Stakeholder Working Group they are undertaking further investigation and modelling in relation to operating scenarios for Dock and Green Lakes.

In relation to Natimuk Lake, GWM announced in May 2008 that it would not be supplying water as supplementary water supplies are not practical. However, the decommissioning of water supply channels in the Natimuk Lake catchment will aim to maximise the return of storm water run-off to the catchment.

Yours sincerely

Steve Costello
Assistant Secretary
Urban Water Security Branch
11 July 2008

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