

# STANTHORPE COMMUNITY REFERENCE PANEL INC

14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Committee Secretary  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane Qld 4000

**Submission to Mineral, Water & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**

The Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel (SCRP) is an incorporated body created by the State Government and Stanthorpe Shire Council in 2004 to give advice to all levels of Government on water issues. It is a broad base of qualified and experienced professionals, business people, agri-business owners, environmentalists and community representatives. It has been chaired by two Stanthorpe Mayors and an acting Mayor. The SCRP has assisted the Federal Government with many Murray Darling Basin deliberations. In 2016 it was appointed the *primary consultation group* to the Qld Govt's Dept of Natural Resources and Mines to assist review of the Water Resource Plan for the Border Rivers catchment (members contributed 500+ hours workshop/committee time). The Panel has assisted past local Councils with advice and significant funds to progress water options in the region.

The SCRP applauds the Committee and the Ministers efforts to keep progressing water reform by amendments to the relevant Acts. And it recognises the judicious and detailed ongoing efforts that the officers of the Dept of Natural Resources and Mines apply to also achieve these aims.

Specifically with attention to the effects of climate change, the consideration of cultural values, water quality issues, water trading and treatment of strategic water reserves.

Stanthorpe and the Granite Belt has strategic water reserves for urban and irrigation purposes and it is the desire of the community, as expressed by the Reference Panel over many years consultation, that these be kept in reserve until the Dept Natural Resources and Mines determines the best way to capture and use the water. There is presently a project of State Significance for the development of Emu Swamp Dam near Ballandean, south of Stanthorpe, to utilise a major portion of the Border Rivers strategic reserves. This is fully supported by the Stanthorpe Community and a detailed costing process is being considered by the Federal Governments National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

The Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel commits to continuing to assist the State Government with water planning issues in conjunction with the Dept of Natural Resources and Mines.

Yours sincerely,

**Stephen Tancred**

Chairman, Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel