



The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Skills and TAFE
Minister for Water

Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 8392 2220

MIN-250205252

Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr McDonald,

Thank you for conveying to me the community petition that was tabled in the Legislative Council on 19 February 2025 by Beverley McArthur, Member for the Western Victoria Region, on the Fyansford Paper Mill water race.

I recognise the importance of the historic Fyansford Paper Mill water race and the Barwon River to the community and acknowledge and commend the community's advocacy to protect them.

The water race has significant heritage value as part of the now disused mill. The heritage value of restoring the water race needs to be balanced with the provision of environmental benefits, such as allowing fish passage, natural water flow and the protection of Aboriginal cultural values in this reach of the Barwon River.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is the waterway manager for the Barwon River under the *Water Act 1989*. Over the last few years, the CMA has been meeting with the community to discuss their concerns and potential opportunities for management at the site to benefit values in this reach of the Barwon River.

Corangamite CMA has recently secured \$1.67 million from the Federal Labor Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments program to undertake detailed consultation and planning with the community, Heritage Victoria, and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. This will determine the best way forward for this section of the Barwon River, including the installation of fishways at the Paper Mill rock pool and Buckley Falls. The most appropriate approach for management of the water race will be further considered as part of this work and formal meetings with all key stakeholders are planned for April 2025.

Thank you for writing to me, and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Water
Minister for Skills and TAFE