

The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP

Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Minister for Local Government



Our Ref: A914247 / M024-0501

Mr Ross Farlow
Chairman
NSW Cane Growers Association

Via email: office@nswcanegrowers.com.au

Dear Mr Farlow,

I write in response to your letter to the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, in her capacity as Minister for Water and Minister for the North Coast, about agricultural drainage maintenance and repair work in the Northern Rivers region. Minister Jackson has asked me to respond to you regarding your request to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), as it falls within my area of responsibility.

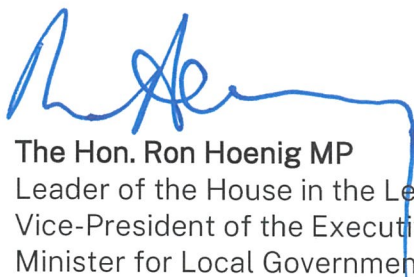
I note your concerns and can appreciate how difficult it has been over many years to get repair and maintenance work done on agricultural drains in the Northern Rivers region.

I understand that the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA) is leading a review of the Northern Rivers Drainage Reset Program, which will look at the suggestions in your letter and make recommendations for further works, including around legislative requirements for licensing of works.

I have therefore asked the Office of Local Government (OLG) to consider the relevant provisions of the Act and to contact and work with the NSW RA, other relevant NSW agencies and councils on a sensible and collaborative way forward. As NSW RA is leading this review, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Hon. Paul Scully MP, Minister for Public Spaces and Planning for his attention.

Thank you for bringing this important matter to my attention. I would welcome an opportunity for you to discuss the matter directly with my office and representatives of NSWRA you have ongoing concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact Brendan Byron, Policy Advisor, on 0407 850 320 to discuss a meeting further. If you have any questions, you are also welcome to contact Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development, at OLG on 0491 225 904 or by email at melissa.gibbs@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



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23 OCT 2024

CC: Hon. Paul Scully MP, Minister for Public Spaces and Planning