



NSW IRRIGATORS' COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Irrigators Welcome NSW “Office of Water” in Super Agency Announcement

The NSW Irrigators Council has welcomed the NSW Government’s announcement that an independent Office of Water will be established as part of its new Super Agency arrangements.

The Administrative Orders, released today (available [here](#)), establish a separate Office of Water that will house the staff and functions involved in administering water legislation in NSW. A letter from Premier Rees to Water Minister Costa explains that the Office of Water will be headed by a Commissioner for Water who will report directly to the Minister.

The Irrigators Council has campaigned strongly for the independence of the Water portfolio from the Environment portfolio, noting the conflict of interest should the regulator also be a significant entitlement holder.

Council’s Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson has congratulated Minister Costa for his work in creating today’s outcome.

“Minister Costa has worked with the irrigation industry through NSW Irrigators Council to recognise a problem, find a solution and have that solution implemented. This is a testament to his willingness to support all stakeholders in his portfolio.

“We also recognise the effort in achieving this outcome of NSW Country Labor and, in particular, Tony Catanzariti MLC. Premier Rees listened to their concerns – and directly to ours – and has made the right decision.

Gregson says that the Council will now push to have the Office of Water recognised as a statutory authority to ensure its long term protection as an independent regulatory body.

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