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## **No improvement in transparency for water ownership & trading**

The NSW Government must show they are serious about managing the state's precious water resources by providing open public access to all water licence and water trading information.

The Inland Rivers Network submission to the public consultation that closed on 1 February emphasised the need for a free public single source Water Register.

Like Western Australia, the NSW Water Register should include all details of water entitlements; water allocations; meter readings; real time water account balance and all trading activities, as well as any convictions from water theft.

The exposure of seriously poor water management by the ABC Four Corners program 'Pumped' in 2017, resulted in recommendations from the independent Matthews Report to improve transparency around water ownership and trading.

"Public confidence in the State government's approach to transparency has not improved with the latest approach out for comment," said Bev Smiles, President.

'The proposal is basically business as usual with information spread across numerous websites and a huge cost to gain access the Water Access Licence information.'

'If other states can provide free public information from a single source, we have to ask what is NSW hiding?'

'The only way to avoid ongoing allegations of water theft and corruption is to be upfront about who owns what, what they are extracting or trading and how the Government is regulating the water industry and market,' said Mel Gray, Healthy Rivers Dubbo

'This Government has been sprung time after time favouring their big corporate mates at the expense of everyone else. If they want us to trust them, this is their opportunity to come clean.'

Inland Rivers Network submission is available at:  
<https://inlandriversnetwork.org/campaigns/submissions/>

More information at: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/licensing-trade/trade/have-your-say>

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