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Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 11:11 AM

To: Anthony Ko <Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Snowy 2.0 Submission following Environmental Impact Statement

This submission is made on behalf of Friends of Currango, a not for profit Company representing members of the company and friends , more generally, of Currango

What is Currango?

For these purposes " Currango " is used to describe a set of buildings on the Eastern side of Lake Tantangara at the point where the Port Philip Trail crosses Currango Creek.

The buildings consist of an iconic 1860s homestead originally used for high country grazing, plus attendant outbuildings. The property was once possessed by Australian Estates.

After grazing leases were revoked, caretakers Tom and Molly Taylor were installed at Currango. Gradually the practice developed of fishermen , walkers, and others staying at Currango with the Taylors and this continued after their departure in 1980, when other caretakers were installed by the NPWS, Kosciusko Branch .

Currango is much loved by many generations of visitors, many of whom travel huge distances each year to enjoy a unique, quiet high country experience.

Friends of Currango

Friends of Currango was formed, initially , to assist the Taylors. But eventually it was incorporated and has since been the spokesman for many of the hundreds who now stay at Currango each year. At one point it engaged in major working parties..Pursuant to an MOU with the NPWS it conducts regular meetings at which practical and policy issues regarding Currango are discussed. We are informed by NPWS that the FOC continued involvement is greatly valued.

This submission focuses on several points of significance either for Friends of Currango (FOC) or members of the public who now visit whether for overnight or daily visits. Visitations to Currango are for a variety of purposes, including fishing, walking , painting, and horse riding

Access

The principal access to Currango and the only access for two wheel drive sedans, is via the Snowy Mountain Highway/Tantangara Dam Road, which crosses the Murrumbidgee below Tantangara, then rises sharply and proceeds high above Tantangara to the East. From this gravel road an access track drops down into Currango.

Whilst Figure 11.1 is not absolutely clear we understand that during construction it is proposed that this road be closed to the public.

This will have a massive impact upon Currango. Whilst we understand that during construction the water level in Tantangara is to be kept low, thus enabling continued use of the alternative means of access known as Port Philip Trail, it will be quite impossible for some users to use it. At times of wet weather two wheel vehicles can be easily stranded on this trail.

Then, as we understand it, ultimately the water level in Tantangara is to be kept at a height which ends for all time the use of this iconic Port Philip trail.

It will also preclude visitation to one of the historic sites at Currango, notably Old Currango which is about 4km to the NW of Currango. It is true that if at present the dam is at full level or anything approaching full level, one cannot take the beautiful track (reserved for walking) from Currango to Old Currango. But for most of the time that walk is possible.

Impact upon Lake Tantangara

We find it hard to believe that it is proposed that the ground removed (spoil) whilst tunnelling may be simply pitched into Tantangara (or Talbingo for that matter).

How can it be certainly ascertained what will be the effect upon the recipient lakes? Whilst you can engage in testing which offers up certain results, the actual result will only be determined in the years after the event. And then it is too late. An unexpected damage whether to the water, or the surrounds of the lakes, will be irreversible. Long after the planners of this scheme will have moved on, the community will be left with any adverse consequences .

IF IT IS TO PROCEED THE PROPONENTS OF THE PLAN MUST FIND AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF DISPOSING OF THE SPOIL

Trout within the Snowy Mountains

We cannot sufficiently emphasise the potential damage which may be caused to fishing in NSW and even into Victoria if this Plan proceeds.

In Talbingo Reservoir there are Redfin. There are none in Tantangara or the Murrumbidgee River, the Eucumbene Dam or River, or any other much loved fishing venue in the Snowy Mountains. It may not be understood how diabolical is the effect on a trout fishery, of the introduction of Redfin . Not only do they feed on small trout and roe, but they breed so proficiently that within a short time, they dominate a fishery with millions of, mainly tiny, Redfin

Trout fishing in the Snowy Mountains has been a popular vocation since long before Snowy Mountains 1. Thousands attend KNP and the wider Snowy , for this purpose each year. Many are employed due to the fishing . If Redfin get into Tantangara they will find their way into the Eucumbene system , the streams and lakes below Lake Eucumbene , and the Murrumbidgee.

It is not merely downstream fishing which will be affected . Many small streams flow into Tantangara, Redfin will also rush up those streams.

If there is the SLIGHTEST CHANCE that Redfin will be enabled to enter Lake Tantangara, the Plan should not proceed.

Process

We must protest about the fact that this huge EIS is available for comment for a mere 28 days. We have not been able to study and understand this huge document with its many appendices . This ridiculous timetable calls into question the sincerity of the proponents. For a project such as this , demonstrated good faith is critical .

Yours sincerely

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