

Project Name: Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project-Main Works

Application Number: SSI-10033

Submission by [REDACTED].

3rd December 2022

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to object to the, above mentioned, proposal to expand the Shoalhaven Hydro facility due to the detrimental impacts not adequately addressed or mitigated by the current proposal.

1. Complete failure to even acknowledge or include the Wombat Refuge and conservation land at which I live at 407B Bendeela Road, Kangaroo Valley stating only that in section 2.4.5 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that *landholdings surrounding the construction site consist of isolated dwellings*. We are one of about 16 residences within one-thousand metres of the site, not including the Scott's College Outdoor Campus that is just 500 metres from the site.
2. The Chief Project Engineer for the project described the surrounding area and proposed destruction of 29 hectares of native bushland as *just scrubby regrowth*. As a member of Wildlife South Coast Rescue and an inhabitant of a Wombat Rehabilitation Refuge I am appalled by this complete lack of understanding of the local biodiversity. Members of the Kangaroo Valley Wildlife initiative who spent months supporting our native wildlife in this *scrubby regrowth* following the devastating loss and impact of the recent bushfires to the area will be making their objection clear also.
3. Section 6.8.3.1 of the EIS contains a table of residences that will be adversely affected by construction noise. Mine, only 200 metres from the project site is not mentioned. It will also be affected by the dust. Being on tank water I am concerned about the deterioration of its quality and safety, particularly as I have a six-month-old baby. My Father also has diminished lung capacity due to chemotherapy. The dust nor the noise is acceptable. The only address to this in the EIS uses wind statistics from Nowra, Albion Park and Moss Vale all of which have totally different topography to Kangaroo Valley.
4. Appendix Q of the EIS 6.13.4.5 Business and Industry claims that the project is expected to have positive impacts for local businesses, then goes on to state:
Potential amenity changes (including traffic noise, dust and visual amenity) are most likely to affect businesses that rely on a quieter business environment, such as visitor accommodation, cafes and restaurants, wedding function venues, and wellness retreats.
This statement directly contradicts previous EIS contentions that dust and noise will not be an issue to local residences. The majority of businesses in Kangaroo Valley rely on a quieter business environment. For example, the property in front of ours (even closer to the project site) is an Air B&B, our neighbours are a wedding venue and negative effect of tourist numbers to the Bendeela Recreation Ground has hardly been mentioned. Thousands of people each year visit and camp at this site. The contribution to the local economy has not

been quantified but will be immense. Other events such as the Folk Festival and Show will also be impacted.

5. The roads in and out of Kangaroo Valley have not yet been repaired from the floods, yet there is no mention in the EIS of the impact of the expected increase in traffic (of workers commuting and trucks) to the already dangerously flawed roads. Perhaps this should have been a higher priority for government financial support than that of the proposed Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion, especially as the increase in power will be so minimal compared to the destruction caused to the local vegetation, wildlife, local infrastructure, economy and physical and mental health of local residents. Not to mention the devaluation of properties, many aging owners of whom are reliant on their value of for their retirement.
6. The project is simply not green, which was the purpose of the monies provided by the State Government to Origin in support of this project. The Australian Parliament website quotes from an Australian University study *that 20% of pumped hydro power is lost as more energy is used pumping water up hill than is generated during its flow down to the turbine.* Add to this the 13% increase in CO2 that will be released during the construction caused by the destruction of 29 hectares of vegetation to be cleared, plus the devastating impact to Kangaroo Valley's unique biodiversity.

In conclusion there is much to be questioned about the vague and incomplete Environmental Impact Statement provided for the expansion of the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project. It is an ill-conceived, badly planned project littered with contradictions. Also of significance is a study at the Australian National University that identifies over 3000 low-cost potential sites around Australia, where installation of pumped hydro facilities are an option, capable of producing 300 times more supply than required in Australia in its totality. Of these sites there must be many that can be developed without the huge environmental, social and economical impacts of the proposed Shoalhaven Project.

Yours sincerely

