

**Faye Aspiotis, PO Box 5061, Frederickton, NSW, 2440**

**Date: 16/10/2023**

**Attention: The Honourable Paul Scully MP**, Minister for Planning & Environment and Public Spaces. **Ministerial Office -**

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**Dear Minister,**

**Re: Submission of Objection by Faye Aspiotis to the Proposed Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Proposal: Application Number SSI-12422997, EPBC ID Number 2020/8850, Assessment Type; Critical State Significant Infrastructure. Exhibited as: (EXH-62250958)**

Thank you for making available and exhibiting the DA, EIS and accompanying documents, as well as the opportunity to provide a Submission of objection to the proposed Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Development Application.

There are several reasons why I am strongly opposed to this proposal. These are -

- **Water quality issues** with the known presence of arsenic and antimony in the vicinity.
- **Water quantity issues** with the proposed removal of 6 gigalitres of water from the Macleay River, that is currently showing signs of running dry upriver.
- **Destruction of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites**, with 12 sites recognised as being partially or fully destroyed. When asked at the Bucket Brewery OMPHS / Macleay Valley Business Chamber event on 27/9/23, how this destruction is allowed, their response was that they were going to manage it with financial remuneration.
- **The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) was inadequate** and rushed in my opinion. The two Aboriginal men employed to help complete it have said they were rushed, told where to walk (by OMPHS) and told to remove Aboriginal artefacts that were then bagged up and sent to a University in Sydney, NSW.
- **Dunghutti / Thunghutti Aboriginal Elders oppose the project** and have gone on record with the ABC to voice that they do not support it.

I have been a Mathematics / Science Teacher at Melville High School, South Kempsey for 10 years. I am a proud member of the Kempsey Community and am very protective of the Macleay River and the regions Dunghutti / Thunghutti Aboriginal heritage.

Prior to teaching, I worked in the area of environmental monitoring for several consultancy firms who completed hydrographic, weather station and flood warning contracts for local and state governments. My qualifications are a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from the University of Melbourne, Master of Teaching from the University of New England and a Diploma of Education from the University of New England.

From review of the Development Application submission, EIS, the October 2016 GHD Report for

NSW Department of Industries – Derelict Mines – Macleay Catchment Arsenic and Antimony Assessment Stage 2 and 2a (21/23815) and the NSW Government AdaptNSW Interactions Climate Change Projections Map, my concerns are that the water quality and quantity will be adversely affected.

I also wanted to mention that while I was preparing this submission, I found an obvious breach of privacy where peoples private details have been published within the actual document. I downloaded this document when the EIS was first released and understand that this document may have been downloaded by hundreds of people. The Oven Mountain office in Kempsey was also providing the document to people on USB sticks.

Within Appendix K, there are names, telephone numbers, email addresses, postal addresses of many of our local people who attended meetings during the Oven Mountain consultation phase. There are also telephone logs, private emails (some marked confidential) and other private information such as insurance details and medical information. There is also a photograph of a naked female Aboriginal Elder in the EIS, which I find truly shocking and inappropriate. I have emailed my concerns to the NSW Information and Privacy Commission (IPC).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Submission of objection. I plan to add to my submission (with evidence) over the next 4 weeks, so please take this as my initial submission. I am also going to send a hardcopy of my submission by registered post.

Yours sincerely

**Faye Aspiotis**

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