

Elizabeth Ekman

150 Mooneba Road

Mooneba NSW 2440

14th October 2023

ATTENTION: The Honourable Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning & Environment and Public Spaces

C/- Anthony Ko, Project Contact Planner, DPE

Department of Planning and Environment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta, NSW 2124

Dear Minister,

Re: Submission of Objection by Elizabeth Ekman to the proposed Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Proposal: Application Number SSI12422997, EPBC ID Number 2020/8850, Assessment Type; Critical State Significant Infrastructure. Exhibited as (EXH-62250958)

As a long term resident of the Macleay Valley, I have a strong interest in maintaining a healthy, safe and stable water supply. The Macleay River is the main source of water for the valley, both in the township and for productive agricultural properties that surround the area in abundance.

I am a supporter of strong action on climate change and moving our country as quickly as possible towards renewable energy sources and sustainable energy management practises and systems that will provide us with a stable and efficient electricity supply going forward.

I am also very concerned about protecting environmental biodiversity and the urgent need to protect what is left of our wild areas, which help to maintain crucial ecosystems. These areas are becoming increasingly fragmented, leading to the ongoing loss of habitat, native flora and fauna and increasing extinction rates of flora and fauna.

I object to this proposal for the following reasons;

1. It will permanently disturb areas that up until now have been wild, untouched, and provide corridors of habitat for distances way beyond this project. This project will yet again disrupt and fragment precious habitat. We must stop doing this.
2. The net efficiency of pumped hydro systems is negative. More energy is required to pump water up than is made when it is released. While I understand that the purpose of this system is to store energy for when it is needed, I believe that the amount of money required to develop this infrastructure could be better spent on other storage technologies and by making use of other already disturbed areas to engineer ways of producing power and storing it. Eg; Old coal mine sites that would otherwise be extremely expensive to rehabilitate, if indeed they ever would be.
3. I have concerns based on our already extensive knowledge of legacy mine contamination in the Macleay River with Arsenic and Antimony, that this project will cause disturbance of these elements, increasing the risk of increased contamination in the river system. While I understand this is an off-river project, the actual building of

the system will cause great disturbance to the rocks and soils surrounding it. It is the disturbance if these elements in the substrate, mud, and soil, that increases the levels in the river system.

I thank you for making the DA and EIS available for viewing and appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission of objection to the proposed Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage Development Application.

I wish only for a long term, positive and sustainable result for our communities, economy, environment and water, and expect that the most efficient technologies for our renewable energy future are explored thoroughly, weighted against the negative environmental impacts of those projects.

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth Ekman
lizzy_ekman@hotmail.com
0477104445