

I and the rest of our community are very distressed to discover that we have just a matter of hours to comment on the proposed draining of Barbers Creek and Tallong Dam.

I do not understand why there has been no community consultation and why we didn't even know of this proposal.

I strongly object on the following grounds.

1) as the proposed dam is 118ML and Tallong Dam has a capacity of 85 ML it is clear that Tallong Dam will be completely drained.

2) we need access to the dam for our rural fire brigade to fill the fire truck's. This is a high fire danger area and in the 60s Tallong was completely destroyed by fire. If we can't access the creek there is an unacceptable risk to life and property.

3)BORAL do not own Barber's creek. They have a 10 year lease. They are not entitled to endanger our village by taking our water.

4) St Sabinas school campus is in Tallong and they use the creek for swimming and canoeing and water safety exercises.

5) we are in a dreadful drought and it is plainly unaustralian to take water for mining when the rural sector is suffering so badly.

6) the council use the creek for water for road works and damping down unsealed roads. Again a community safety issue.

7) The Tallong Dam is of historical significance being a very early railway dam. Very few exist. Please Google tallong dam and see what you propose to destroy.

8) the dam is a beautiful place. There are fewer and fewer wetlands. Black swans breed here. Pelicans and platypus. Heron and swamp waders. There should at least be an environmental impact study conducted.

Please do not allow the theft of our water and the destruction of this important natural resource

Industry, resources and jobs are important, but they have no proposed use for the water. They want to store it because it is an important resource. That is the very reason why that shouldn't be allowed to deprive our whole community.

Please remember that there is no economic growth on a dead planet.

Thank you for your attention. Please hear us. We and our environment need to stop this proposal. Couldn't we have an extension of the time to lodge our objections. This proposal has been slipped passed us. We didn't even know till this morning.

Yours faithfully

Gwen Griffin