

RE: Marulan South Limestone Mine SSD-7009

My name is Christy Derwent, I work for the Highlands Area, National Parks Wildlife Service as a Technical Officer. My home address is 31 Bottlebrush Cl, Tallong. I am deeply concerned and object to the above application for the following reasons:

1. The application proposes construction of a 118ML dam, to be filled and maintained from Tallong Dam which only has an 85ML capacity. You cannot expect Tallongs small reservoir to support a large mining dam. And surely you could not and would not allow Boral to drain Tallong Dam entirely!
2. Any volume of water taken by Boral from Tallong Dam would have devastating consequences for the entire Tallong and Marulan region that would significantly impact the abundant wildlife, damage the delicate balance of the aquatic ecosystem and cripple the rich biodiversity found in this area.
3. The local community embrace Tallong Dam and Barber's creek. Water is an essential resource for our community and we rely on Tallong Dam and Barber's Creek as a key supplier of it. Even properties which do not directly rely on Tallong Dam or Barber's Creek for water supply and emergency fire fighting resources have watercourses which run through them and which support valuable natural ecosystems and native plant and wildlife. Draining Tallong Dam would result in Barber's Creek and all linked watercourses running dry and would destroy those ecosystems and wildlife.
4. To make this matter worse, Boral doesn't need the water: its own application already acknowledges the dam it wants to build is only for "water storage", not because of any actual need. In any event, Boral already has a pipeline from Tallong Dam and pump stations on public land in Tallong which provide it with water. It should not now be given the right to take the entirety of the community's resource from Tallong Dam.
5. Even if Boral did "need" that water, as opposed to merely wanting it, that does not entitle it to take a public resource for its own benefit and deprive the environment and whole community of that resource.
6. The water in Tallong Dam is a public asset, not Boral's private asset. Boral only has a 10 year lease, not a right to take and hoard the whole resource at the expense of the environment and community. If Boral were given that permission it would amount to a de facto privatisation of a public community asset.
7. In addition to the community need and the devastating consequences of this proposal detailed above, the community uses Tallong Dam as a recreational and scenic resource: it is a beautiful natural environment which is accessible to the public. It is used for bird watching, bush walking, swimming, kayaking and canoeing, family picnics and leisure activities. The suggestion that it be handed to a private sector company to plunder it for "storage" at the expense of the community is offensive.
8. Apart from the proposed water storage dam, the application seeks a massive increase in mining operations as well as overburden area. That will create vastly more noise for the community as well as dust and related air pollution from the massively increased overburden area (being an area which by definition stores all of the waste and debris from the mining operations). This is a quiet and scenic rural community which does not need more mining. The character and operations of the mine are not compatible with the land use objectives of the RU1 zone.

In view of the scale and impact of this application and its effect on the environment and my own local community I am amazed and upset that I was not notified about it. The proposal should be notified to every affected landowner so that the public is properly aware of it and can have its say.

I object to the application for the reasons stated above. I have not made any reportable political donation during the last 2 years.

Kind regards,

Christy Derwent



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