

5 DECEMBER 2022

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Director - Industry Assessments

Objection to The New Dungowan Dam Tamworth NSW State Significant Infrastructure 10046

I object to the proposed development on the following grounds;

1. **Cost.** The estimated cost of this proposed new dam is excessive and cannot be justified.
2. **Alternatives.** There are other options that would be far less expensive that have not been fully considered or costed. Such as;
 - **Better management of the water stored in Chaffey Dam.**
 - **Construct a water supply pipeline from Split Rock Dam to Tamworth.**
 - **Construct a water supply pipeline from the recently completed Manilla water filtration plant to Tamworth. The filtration plant can extract water from the Manilla River after being released from Split Rock Dam.**
 - **Construct a water supply pipeline from Keepit Dam to Tamworth.**

The proposed new Dungowan dam is only going to provide an additional 16.2 GL of water at a very high cost. How can the cost of this project be justified? Who is going to pay for it? Will it be the rate payers of Tamworth?

In 2016 the augmentation of Chaffey Dam was completed, this resulted in an increase in Chaffey's capacity from 62 GL to 100.8 GL (38.8 GL). One of the reasons that Chaffey Dam was originally constructed and one of the main reasons given for its augmentation was to provide water for the rapidly growing city of Tamworth. So if an additional 38.8 GL of water in Chaffey Dam was not enough to solve Tamworth's water supply needs, how will an additional 16.2 GL in proposed new Dungowan Dam solve the problem.

The upgraded Chaffey Dam filled prior to the last drought but due to poor water management the city of Tamworth was at risk of running out of water in the last drought. If less water was allocated to the environment and more water made available for the city of Tamworth that would help solve Tamworth's water supply needs.

During the last drought both Keepit Dam with a capacity of 425.5 GL and Split Rock Dam with a capacity of 397.37 GL were almost completely drained of water. If both of these dams had been managed better surely there could have been some water retained in them. During the drought the majority of the water released from both dams was for environmental flows. Instead of releasing all that water as environmental flows, why not build a water supply pipeline to Tamworth from one of these dams. A pipeline from either of these dams to Tamworth would be no more expensive than the proposed 55km pipeline from Dungowan Dam to the Calala Water Treatment Plant. A pipeline from Split Rock could supply water directly to the rapidly growing Hills Plains and Moore Creek residential areas. A pipeline from Keepit could supply water directly to the planned large industrial area near the Tamworth airport and bulk raw water to the abattoirs located there as well.

Water from Split Rock Dam is used by Tamworth Regional Council to supply water to the townships of Barraba and Manilla. Not so long ago a water supply pipeline was constructed from Split Rock Dam to Barraba, so surely it would be possible to construct a pipeline from either Split Rock or Keepit to Tamworth.

There is no justification for the proposed new Dungowan Dam given its significant estimated cost. The 3 stated objectives of the proposed development can be satisfied by the better management of Chaffey Dam (less environmental flows = more water for the City of Tamworth), and the use of the other existing dams in the Namoi Valley (Keepit and Split Rock) to provide water for Tamworth.