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6 December 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

**Submission
EIS New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project
Application number SSI-10046**

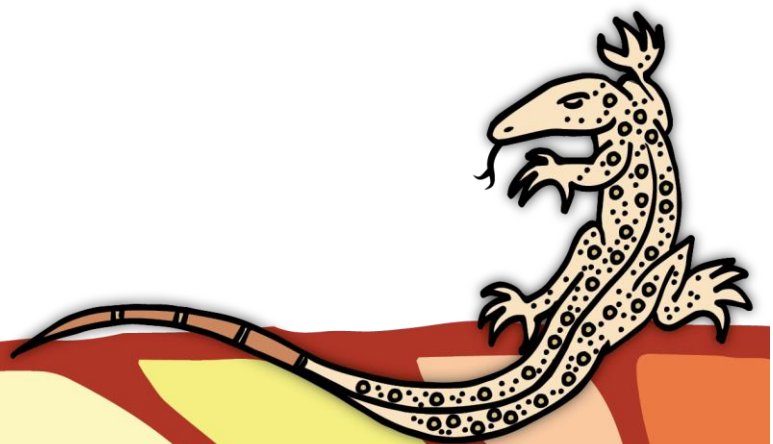
On behalf of the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, I am pleased to enclose a submission in response to the Environmental Impact Statement for the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project.

The Tamworth LALC is grateful for the opportunity to put its views forward for consideration. If you require any further information or would like to discuss any of the points made in our submission please feel free to contact me on (02) 6766 9028.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Snape
CEO



SUBMISSION

In response to the Environmental Impact Statement for the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project

Executive Summary

The Tamworth LALC Board resolved at its Board Meeting held in November 2022 to support the construction of the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project based on a number of key conditions that we believe must be met in order for the proponents to maintain the social licence for the project.

These conditions include:

- The project managers continue to engage and work closely with traditional owners and relevant cultural authorities in relation to the management and protection of cultural materials including artefacts and sites identified within the project footprint
- A series of information and consultation workshops be held with Aboriginal communities to provide an opportunity to extend the list of Registered Aboriginal Parties that Water NSW is currently working with. The workshops should provide an opportunity to present the significance of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment findings, establish cultural interest in the site and discuss potential Aboriginal governance and management strategies.
- An Aboriginal governance structure established, in order to provide cultural oversight for the project and ensure that RAPs involvement reflects their cultural authority in speaking for Country.
- That the cultural cost of the impacts on biodiversity including land-based and aquatic flora and fauna within the project footprint are allocated a value in order that an off-set may be calculated for these alongside other off-set requirements.
- That the Aboriginal community and RAPs are involved in developing the offset strategy and planning the purchasing of offsets and stewardship sites.
- That Aboriginal procurement exceeds the NSW Aboriginal Procurement Policy target. The 1.5% minimum target represents at least 14 Aboriginal jobs and \$3.945m annual value in benefit to Aboriginal individuals, communities and businesses.
- That fee-for-service opportunities are provided for Tamworth LALC Aboriginal Ranger team within off-set land management plan and activities.

In providing a submission regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project the Tamworth LALC would like to respond to a number of claims made in the EIS documents, as well as providing our views on a number of the topics raised including:

- The management and protection of cultural materials and sites
- Ecological impacts and biodiversity off-set strategy / Cultural impacts of biodiversity loss
- Aboriginal employment opportunities through the construction phase
- Aboriginal Ranger opportunities.

Who we are

The Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) was established in 1984 as a Land Council under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The Tamworth LALC's core business is to work for the benefit of Aboriginal people in NSW and in particular our member base and their families. Our current membership is 971 and growing.

To fulfil our role the Tamworth LALC works in partnership with the local service sector including government agencies, the private sector and a range of not-for-profits. We manage a range of programs focused on youth development including Bounce Back, Tamworth Opportunity Hub and the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase (ACS), as well as programs that work to achieve our cultural goals including Aboriginal Land Agreement negotiations, Bumbira Arts and Culture Program (a social and emotional wellbeing program for Aboriginal women), and the Aboriginal Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area programs. Our relationships with like-minded organisations across the region add a broad range of expertise and opportunities that are mobilised to benefit our Aboriginal membership.

The Tamworth LALC's guiding document is our Community Land and Business Plan which is informed via in-depth consultation with our Board, members and community. The Tamworth LALC's 2020 – 2025 Community Land and Business Plan identifies Cultural Knowledge and Heritage; Education, Training and Employment; and Youth Development as three of the LALC's primary priorities and objectives for the current planning period.

The Tamworth LALC is a Registered Aboriginal Party in relation to the community engagement activities of the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project. We have been engaged in the project since 22 June 2020 being the date of the second Aboriginal Focus Group meeting.

Our position

Cultural significance of the site

The land identified as the potential future site for a New Dungowan Dam has a long history of Aboriginal occupation with possible links to Gamilaroi, Anaiwan, Birpai, Gweagal, and Wannaruah Nations given its location in proximity of traditional nation borders. Consultations and site visits have included primarily Gamilaroi Aboriginal community stakeholders and have uncovered a significant physical history including evidence of Aboriginal occupation, ceremony (as evidenced by the Dreaming site), cultural teaching and rites of passage (as evidenced by a men's site), and a significant stone resource within the landscape.

Within an artefact scatter potentially numbering in the millions across the full project footprint, over 1660 Aboriginal artefacts of various nature have been uncovered to date and include evidence of extensive tool making. Among the artefacts are axe heads, blades, spear heads, flake and arrowheads. The latter are considered extremely rare given the debate as to whether or not Aboriginal communities traditionally used arrows. The artefact scatters include some concentrations that are of unusual density for the region, with stratification indicating history dating back 6,000 – 8,000 years. These sites are worth more research in order to draw out the stories that they can tell us about Aboriginal movement and practice over different periods of history. Other significant sites were also found within the project area, including a stone arrangement associated with a dreaming / creation site which is irreplaceable, grinding grooves, a men's site and a number of modified trees – significant given the heavy land clearing of the area by early pastoralists.

While there is the expectation of ongoing discussion and consultation regarding the future management of the artefacts found across the site, relocation of other sites is not possible. If the Dam goes ahead, sites including the Dreaming site will be inundated and will be, in a practical sense, lost to future generations. Culturally sensitive recording of these sites is highly desirable, in order to

record, research, analyse and document what history is there prior to the clearing and inundation of the dam site. This work must be completed in partnership with the appropriate cultural authorities and adhere to cultural protocols and may require some time to be set aside for cultural governance and decision making.

In addition to the loss of cultural sites, there is potential for the loss of many culturally significant plants and animals that will be affected if the area is inundated. Ongoing Aboriginal management of the area, including Aboriginal Ranger management of rehabilitation, species monitoring, seed collection, replanting, cultural burning regimes and revitalisation of Country would be desirable due to the significant Aboriginal history and the land being ancestral land of local families including Aboriginal occupation into the late 1960s.

Conditional support for the project

The Tamworth LALC Board resolved at its Board Meeting held in November 2022 to support the construction of the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project based on a number of key conditions that we believe must be met in order for the proponents to maintain the social licence for the project.

These conditions include:

- The project managers continue to engage and work closely with traditional owners and relevant cultural authorities in relation to the management and protection of cultural materials including artefacts and sites identified within the project footprint
- A series of information and consultation workshops be held with Aboriginal communities to provide an opportunity to extend the list of Registered Aboriginal Parties that Water NSW is currently working with. The workshops should provide an opportunity to present the significance of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment findings, establish cultural interest in the site and discuss potential Aboriginal governance and management strategies.
- An Aboriginal governance structure established, in order to provide cultural oversight for the project and ensure that RAPs involvement reflects their cultural authority in speaking for Country.
- That the cultural cost of the impacts on biodiversity including land-based and aquatic flora and fauna within the project footprint are allocated a value in order that an off-set may be calculated for these alongside other off-set requirements.
- That the Aboriginal community and RAPs are involved in developing the offset strategy and planning the purchasing of offsets and stewardship sites.
- That Aboriginal procurement exceeds the NSW Aboriginal Procurement Policy target. The 1.5% minimum target represents at least 14 Aboriginal jobs and \$3.945m annual value in benefit to Aboriginal individuals, communities and businesses.
- That fee-for-service opportunities are provided for Tamworth LALC Aboriginal Ranger team within off-set land management plan and activities.

Management and protection of cultural materials and sites

The EIS States that:

“The majority of the cultural material documented and/or predicted to be present within the project footprint would only be minimally affected by the project.”

The Tamworth LALC disagrees that the project represents a **minimal effect**. It is estimated that the project would:

- directly impact 2.2 ha of identified areas of high artefact densities,
- directly impact ~42 ha where such cultural material are more likely to be present based on predictive models,
- further impact ~96 ha of these deposits which are within the planned inundation area.

At an estimated 10 - 15 artefacts per m², this is an assumed 14.02million to 21.03m artefacts. Given the rarity of some of the artefacts uncovered through the excavation of test pits to date, the exploration of the full scatter is warranted.

In addition to this ‘background’ artefact scatter other cultural sites identified to date include:

- A campsite
- A men’s site
- Potential burial sites
- Modified trees
- Grinding grooves
- An ambush (hunting) site
- A stone array relating to the Catfish Dreaming which is associated with secret/sacred knowledge
- Terrible Billy Creek

The Tamworth LALC Sites Officer has indicated his belief that a women’s site and other burial sites are also likely to be found.

If the dam project goes ahead, the volume and nature of artefacts and cultural sites found across the project footprint, their location relative to each other and to the overall landscape, and their further research, interpretation and meaning would be lost to current and future generations. This effect will occur regardless of whether through inundation or if some artefact recovery is undertaken.

The EIS States:

While the project would result in some intergenerational / cumulative loss to material culture, there would be numerous cultural heritage benefits. These include the long-term preservation of substantive inundated cultural material that would be inaccessible from future harm, a greater understanding of the past and contemporary values in the region, new ‘created’ Aboriginal spaces and opportunities for heritage interpretation and public outreach.

The Tamworth LALC would propose that the loss of cultural material likely represents **significant** intergenerational / cumulative loss to material culture and disagrees that there is any overall cultural heritage **benefits** to speak of when this cultural material could be protected through other means, if the Dam project were not on the table.

In a general sense, the EIS continually understates the significance and potential loss of cultural heritage related to the density of artefacts and range cultural sites found within the project footprint to date.

More robust education and consultation with local Aboriginal communities is required. The Tamworth LALC would insist, in the first instance, that a series of information and consultation workshops be held with Aboriginal communities to provide an opportunity to extend the list of Registered Aboriginal Parties that Water NSW is currently working with. The workshops should provide an opportunity for experts including Aboriginal parties, archaeologists and the Water NSW team, to present the significance of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment findings, establish cultural interest in the site and discuss potential Aboriginal governance and management strategies.

Tamworth LALC proposes a number of potential management strategies that could be discussed including:

- The potential inundation of the sites
- The recovery and ceremonial reburial / repatriation of the artefacts on Country
- The recovery and display of a selection of artefacts within a suitable keeping place or similar (management / education centre), preferably as close as possible to the original site
- Photographic and multi-media recording, documentation and interpretation of sites, artefacts and oral histories as part of a comprehensive site interpretation project to be used in educating the public, current and future generations.

The EIS states:

The management of impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage will be implemented across the project lifecycle. A key commitment in the EIS is to ensure that cultural material relocated from project impact areas are retained on Country and accessible to the future Aboriginal community.

The Tamworth LALC views this as highly desirable. The Tamworth LALC sites officers who have attended the majority of meetings and field days over the project's community engagement period to date believe that it is imperative that the cultural materials remain on Country no matter what management strategy is ultimately decided through Aboriginal community consultation.

The EIS states:

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan would be developed in consultation with the project's Aboriginal participants to provide the post-approval framework for managing Aboriginal heritage within the project area. An Interpretation Strategy and Plan would be developed to provide acknowledgement and other visual/educational opportunities for the Aboriginal and broader local community. A Cultural Flow Management Plan would also be prepared to further explore and manage hydrological regimes downstream, if affected by the project and its impact on places of cultural value.

The Tamworth LALC strongly supports this position including the ongoing, close supervision of Registered Aboriginal Parties in providing step-by-step advice, governance and decision making around the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage items, places and stories.

The Tamworth LALC would stipulate that the series of community workshops included in our list of conditions, be held prior to the initiation of the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan to ensure all stakeholders with an interest are included in the Plan's development.

Once this step has been completed, Aboriginal governance must be put in place to allow cultural decision making, transparency and accountability to community moving forward. Aboriginal people involved in this role deserve reimbursement for their time and out-of-pocket expenses involved in serving this role.

The EIS states:

Overall, the report identified 11 sites within the project footprint (Table 5.1; Figure 5.1). Of these, eight could be identified as cultural sites and/or social history places, with three considered as purported cultural sites that lacked robust validation.

This wording in the EIS Summary and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report consistently **understates** the significance, breadth and number of sites and artefacts located to date with more likely to be uncovered as the project continues.

Additionally, the report is inconsistent in identifying the number of sites quoting between 8 and 11 sites in the EIS Summary (as per the highlighted quote above), alongside a reference to the field investigation uncovering 35 previously undocumented sites on p71 of the ACHA, and a further reference to a total of 17 sites quoted in the Archaeological Key Findings on p112 of the ACHA.

A significant spread of artefacts has been located across the entire project footprint, which at between 10 – 15 artefacts per m² may ultimately number in the millions. Artefacts already recorded number over 1660 with estimated dating around the subboreal Holocene (est 5,000 to 2,500 years ago) through to more contemporary use of natural materials post-colonisation, and more are likely to be found as project investigations continue. In one single test pit 272 artefacts were identified. Types of artefacts found to date include flake, cores, blades, arrow heads, an axe head.

In addition to this artefact scatter the Creation / Dreaming site, men's site, grinding grooves, modified trees, stone arrangements, ambush site and social history sites, all hold cultural significance.

The Tamworth LALC would request that going forward, Water NSW clarify the number of sites in partnership with the RAPs engaged to prepare a final list that may be used to correct the public record of the significance of findings, as well as being used as a basis for discussion during the series of community engagement sessions.

Engagement with Traditional Owners

The Tamworth LALC has provided verbal feedback to Water Infrastructure NSW's project staff about our dissatisfaction with the process followed to register Aboriginal parties' interests in the project and we reiterate that dissatisfaction here.

Water Infrastructure NSW representatives have informed Tamworth LALC that their approach to engaging Aboriginal parties was to provide an open invitation and register those who came forward, thereafter keeping them informed and providing them with opportunities to take part in Aboriginal Focus Groups, site visits and field investigations. Water Infrastructure NSW stated that they did not see it as the role of a government department to 'vet' the parties' cultural authority or claims to their interest in the site.

Tamworth LALC agrees that this is not the role of a government department. However, proper process would have provided for the establishment of Aboriginal governance which could provide information and insights into the cultural authority of the parties and their relative claims to be authorised to "Speak for Country" in relation to the project site.

Moving forward, the Tamworth LALC would like to see an Aboriginal governance structure established, in order to provide cultural oversight for the project and ensure that RAPs involvement reflects their cultural authority in speaking for Country.

The Registered Aboriginal Parties engaged in the Aboriginal and archaeological investigations of the project site to date include primarily representatives of the Gomeroi/Gamilaroi nation with one registered party from each of the Anaiwan nation (Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation) and Wannaruah nations (Wattaka Wonnaruah Cultural Consultancy Services). It is of concern to the Tamworth LALC sites officers, that no Birpai, Worimi or Geawegal representatives are currently engaged, and have therefore not had an opportunity to assess their interest in the project.

The series of community engagement sessions previously proposed should ensure invitations are forwarded to relevant Aboriginal corporations, LALCs, Elders groups and other relevant groups within these Nation groups.

Clearing of the new dam site

Sites officers and Aboriginal parties will need to be engaged and onsite with machinery operators at the time of clearing of any land related to the new dam site, including clearing for the proposed access roads and pipeline as well as the dam site itself. The sites officers' role will be to direct machinery operators in order to protect all identified sites including artefact scatters in line with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan which will be developed. The sites officers and Aboriginal parties will need to be provided with the authority to direct machinery operators in order to protect the integrity of any sites or artefacts not recovered at that time.

Being provided with an appropriate level of authority and respect has not been the experience of the Tamworth LALC's Senior Sites Officer throughout the project to date. This feedback has been provided previously to Water Infrastructure NSW. In order for cultural heritage to be adequately protected, this must not be the case when heavy machinery is on site.

Ecological impacts and biodiversity offset strategy / Cultural impact of biodiversity loss

The EIS states that Aboriginal stakeholder feedback has included in-depth discussion of cultural values to inform the compilation of:

cultural values mapping – understanding the intangible and spiritual values of the project footprint, sourced from both traditional and contemporary information, and subsequently discussions on the findings of these investigations towards the end of the project,

and the Tamworth LALC acknowledges the inclusion of a list of flora and fauna with traditional significance to Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal way of life included in the ACHA on pp34-37.

The LALC requests that the cultural cost of the impacts on biodiversity including land-based and aquatic flora and fauna within the project footprint are allocated a value in order that an off-set may be calculated for these alongside other off-set requirements.

The proposed development will significantly and permanently impact approximately 185ha of native vegetation including;

- >100 ha of moderate condition, remnant vegetation/woodland,
- 10 ha of derived shrubland,
- 28 ha of moderate condition derived native grassland, and
- 35 ha of poor condition derived native grassland.

Due to the Tamworth region's history of land clearing for agriculture, Box Gum Grassy Woodlands are the region's most extensively cleared and modified ecological community, and are considerably under-represented in the region. Much of the region's native vegetation has been fragmented, degraded or lost and the Box Gum Grassy Woodland (BGGW) and associated plant community types

(PCTs) are poorly reserved, existing as fragmented remnants in cleared landscapes. Box–Gum Grassy Woodland is of significant ecological and cultural value, providing habitat and refuge for vast array of native fauna and flora species. **The persistence of this ecological community is dependent on the continued conservation and management and enhancement of remnant stands across the region – and importantly, the restoration and rehabilitation poor condition BGGW or former BGGW.**

The ecological values of the plant communities identified across the project footprint are well documented in the *Dungowan Dam and pipeline project Biodiversity Development Assessment Report*, and the cultural significance of these PCTs and their associated vegetation classifications must be taken into consideration during the development of the biodiversity offset strategy, to ensure that cultural and social co-benefits of the offsetting arrangements are considered.

The proposed development's suggested offset strategy does not negate the significant and permanent net loss of biodiversity resulting from the proposed clearing of 185ha of native vegetation. Creating "Like-for-like offsets" to retire credits and payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund, purchase of credits from existing offset sites and creation of new offset (stewardship sites) may meet offset obligations, however, unfortunately still results in significant net loss of the region's biodiversity and associated net loss of Country for cultural practice.

Gamilaroi people already have limited access to wooded Country. It is important that the offset strategy results in improved social and cultural outcomes and continued improved access to country, in order to connect with country and continue cultural practice. The proposed Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements with private landholders, will effectively reduce access to Gomeroi country, as typically, private landholders are reluctant to allow access. It is of utmost importance, that clear and transparent communication and consultation occurs across the offsetting process.

For the above reasons, the Tamworth LALC would insist that the Aboriginal community and RAPs are involved in developing the offset strategy and planning the purchasing of offsets and stewardship sites.

The EIS states:

It is likely that a combination of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund, purchase of credits from existing offset sites and creation of new offset (stewardship) sites will be the most efficient way of meeting offset requirements.

Water Infrastructure NSW would target direct offsets based on the priority of exploring the protection of land owned by Tamworth Regional Council in areas of native vegetation adjacent to the project as well as seeking stewardship agreements with private landowners.

The Tamworth LALC's does not believe that payments into the BCF or the purchase of credits attached to existing sites that are geographically removed from the Dungowan Dam site are sufficient to genuinely offset the impacts that will be felt within the local area. ***New offset and stewardship sites must be created within the immediate region in order to be effective in any sense of the word.*** The LALC's preferred offset outcomes are outlined below.

Proposed offset outcomes

- Purchase/creation of new offset/stewardship sites with written access agreements, MOUs or otherwise, to support and facilitate Aboriginal access to offset areas.
- Commitment to offsetting within close proximity to the project area, with a preference for proponent owned, or newly purchased offsets rather than agreements with private

landholders, which are often adequately conserved as is, and offer limited access to community.

- Purchase of moderate condition sites and commitment to continued management *and enhancement of offset sites*– and importantly, the restoration and rehabilitation of poor-moderate condition Box–Gum Grassy Woodland.
- Clear and comprehensive communication with and involvement of the Tamworth Aboriginal community and RAPs across the offsetting process.

In addition to the extensive impacts to terrestrial ecology (including significant impacts to federally and state listed ecological communities, flora and fauna species), the Proposal stands to significantly impact and alter the existing aquatic ecosystems across the construction phase, and ultimately, permanently alter natural aquatic corridors through the separation of upper tributaries of Dungowan Creek from Dungowan Creek and the Peel River due to the Proposed Dungowan Dam Wall, which does not offer any fishway provisions. The flow regulation of the proposed dam and the separation of upper and lower sections of Dungowan creek is a primary threat to freshwater aquatic biodiversity, which will alter aquatic migration resulting in genetic isolation and taxonomic homogenisation (lack of genetic diversity) over time.

The EIS' Aquatic Ecology Assessment states:

The Changes in flow will be expected to impact fish passage over natural barriers in the study area more often under the new operational regulations of the project compared to the existing conditions.

The proposed downstream Fish passage offsets as agreed to by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries NSW) (DPI Fisheries) do not negate the impacts of the development and offer no solution to the effective isolation of aquatic species, and populations separated by the new dam wall. ***It is therefore imperative that the genetic diversity of significant species, is maintained through continued translocation and assisted migration activities to ensure impacts are minimised.***

Aboriginal employment opportunities through the construction phase

The EIS states:

The local effects analysis completed for the EIS determined that the project is estimated to make up to the following annual contributions to the regional economy over the 6-year construction period:

- \$263 million in annual direct and indirect regional output or business turnover
- \$94 million in annual direct and indirect regional value-added
- 922 direct and indirect local jobs.

Given the significant value of the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project it is subject to the NSW Aboriginal Procurement Policy which states (in summary), that agencies must include minimum requirements for 1.5% Aboriginal participation in all contracts valued at \$7.5 million via:

- at least 1.5% of the contract value to be subcontracted to Aboriginal businesses
- at least 1.5% of the contract's Australian based workforce (FTE) that directly contribute to the contract to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples*
- at least 1.5% of the contract value to be applied to the cost of education, training or capability building for Aboriginal staff or businesses directly contributing to the contract.

Based on the above figures quoted in the EIS Summary for the project, this means that the Tamworth LALC would expect to see a minimum benefit to the Aboriginal community of:

- \$3.945 million in annual direct and indirect regional output or business turnover
- \$1.41 million in annual direct and indirect regional value-added

- 14 direct and indirect local jobs

The NSW Water Infrastructure team have committed verbally to “Significant additional local employment and training” over and above the 1.5% but actual targets have not been publicly stated.

The Tamworth LALC would like to see a plan developed in partnership with Aboriginal stakeholders, outlining in detail how these targets will be achieved. The Tamworth LALC would be pleased to provide input to the planning and link the team to local businesses, organisations and individuals who may be engaged in and benefit from the achievement of the targets.

Aboriginal Ranger opportunities

The Tamworth LALC currently manage an Aboriginal Ranger Project (ARP), based in the Tamworth region, employing a total of six staff including an Operations Manager, an Aboriginal Ranger Supervisor, and four Aboriginal Rangers.

Across Tamworth and Gamilaraay Country, the Project presents opportunities to showcase the application of traditional knowledge and practices, its benefits, richness and depth, promotes the role of Aboriginal knowledge and traditional land management and showcases the strengths of a two-way approach to cross tenure land management. Across all current project sites, Rangers are involved in the protection of ecological and environmental values, custodianship of rivers and groundwater, land management and protection of sites and cultural assets. Rangers maintain and increase their own cultural knowledge and the knowledge of others, through cultural knowledge sharing, workshops and education programs.

The proposed New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project offers significant opportunity to expand the existing Ranger Program, through a commitment to contracting the Ranger group for fee for service works and activities across the Project footprint and its associated waterways, and ensuring that Water NSW’s offset (stewardship sites) obligations are met including;

- Conservation Land Management activities to regenerate key areas (erosion control, weed identification and management, pest species management)
- Undertake ecological surveys and species monitoring (ensure the ongoing protection and management of environmental assets including threatened species and ecological communities)
- Revegetation across offset (stewardship sites), and decommissioned dam footprint
- Weed Management across offset (stewardship sites), and decommissioned dam footprint
- Erosion Control across offset (stewardship sites), and decommissioned dam footprint
- Water Quality Testing as required
- Aquatic species translocation in collaboration with Project Partners and specialists
- Construction, deployment and monitoring of supplementary habitat structures across offset (stewardship sites), and decommissioned dam footprint
- Undertaking ongoing cultural surveys to identify, catalogue, protect and manage cultural sites (in collaboration with, or post- the active engagement of RAPs)
- Undertake and facilitate cultural practice and traditional land management including cultural burning, bush tucker identification, seed collection and nursery propagation
- Installation of interpretive cultural and ecological signage

The Tamworth LALC Ranger Project is currently establishing a dedicated Project nursery to ensure self-sufficiency across current and future contracted revegetation projects, and to meet community aspirations. The Tamworth LALC Nursery aims to provide native tubestock to regionally significant projects, gradually building capacity across the 2023-2025 period, to ensure continued sustainability. The Tamworth LALC Nursery will have the capacity to provide sufficient locally sourced seed and

tubestock to meet anticipated requirements across offset and rehabilitation sites for the life of the project with respect to critical stages (ie: revegetation of decommissioned current Dungowan Dam site).

Full details and costings for an Aboriginal Ranger project attached to the New Dungowan Dam and Pipeline can be developed and provided on request.

Submission contact

Fiona Snape

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