

## **Submission**

### **Objection to Dungowan Dam & Pipeline Project SS-10046**

My name is Melissa Gray, I live in on Tubba-Gah Maing Wiradjuri Country (Dubbo) in the Northern Murray Darling Basin.

I am writing to object to the approval of the Dungowan dam and pipeline project.

#### **Environmental Impact**

The project would mean fewer natural flows in the Namoi catchment, which would threatened native fish migration for species that are supposed to be protected by the Federal EPBC Act.

There is 9.5 billion litres of water still to recover in the Namoi catchment for the rivers under the Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Diversion Limits that were due in July 2019. Catching an additional 7 billion litres of water a year for this dam proposal is moving away from the legally required (and well over due) target.

Habitat for native fish in Dungowan Creek should be protected by the NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994, as Dungowan Creek is a part of the threatened Lowland Darling River aquatic ecological community.

This EIS fails to assess all of the threatened species that would be impacted by this project.

#### **Options for Tamworth**

The EIS fails to consider how the Tamworth Regional Council's industrial water recycling project would improve water security for Tamworth. Almost 50% of Tamworth's drinking water is currently used by three abattoirs. If these meat works were supplied from the water recycling project, this would increase the available water supply for Tamworth's residents by 100%.

The Dungown dam would not improve Tamworth's domestic water supply as claimed. If the shares of water ownership in the fully allocated Namoi system don't change, a new Dungowan dam would empty just as quickly as the enlarged Chaffey dam did in the 2017-2020 drought.

#### **Taxpayer investment**

The Productivity Commission called out the Dungowan dam as a case study in flawed decision making, even before the cost blew out from \$484 million to \$1.3 billion.

Water could be sourced for the Tamworth urban supply if existing entitlements were purchased from industry at a fraction of the cost of an environmentally destructive dam, and much quicker than a long dam construction.

#### **Conclusion**

This project is being pushed through as a political promise for political purposes. It is not in the best interests of the environment, the people of Tamworth, or the NSW taxpayer.

**Melissa Gray**  
**Dubbo**  
**NSW**  
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