

SUBMISSION OBJECTION TO THE DUNGOWAN DAM AND PIPELINE PROJECT SS1-10046

I have lived in Tamworth for some time and I object to this project. I and have long been a proponent of water recycling as I have previously lived in the Ballina area where grey water is recycled successfully. I have also spent time in cities such as London and Perth where purified recycled water is used for drinking successfully, nobody thinks anything of it.

The EIS did not comply with the SEAR's assessment requirements to analyse and optimise alternatives to this project.

Recycling water is climate-independent and will not cause harm to the environment and way of life to the people who live in the project area. Tamworth Regional Council has a "shovel ready" industrial waste water recycling plant which can be developed if funding of \$100M is obtained. This project will take 2-3 years to build and will save a huge amount of drinking water for Tamworth. The three Tamworth abattoirs use up to 50% of Tamworth's drinking supply so this project would be a of immense benefit to Tamworth. It would be climate-proof water.

This project is estimated to cost 1.3 billion dollars and will take 6 years to construct on top of 2 years to obtain approval and whatever water it contains would evaporate under a warming climate. A huge amount of money will be spent and depending on the climate it may or may not be fit for purpose.

The money would be much better spent on health and roads.

This project will result in extra traffic which will damage the narrow country roads in the area and the existing locals in the area will find driving more dangerous. I am also concerned about the damage which will be done to other roads when materials need to be transported from other areas in NSW.

A large amount of damage to the ecology will occur in the project area. Many species will be harmed. The endangered koala will lose habitat when the land is cleared along with many endangered birds and mammals.

The EIS has not assessed 18 threatened species which can be found in the project area and one of these is the Greater Glider which along with 5 other threatened species is protected under Federal Law.

The EIS does not include sufficient offset provisions for impacted native fish which live in the already threatened Lowland Darling River aquatic ecological community and the Federally listed threatened Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Eel-tailed Catfish which will lose 192 sq km of high quality fish habitat and migration opportunities.

The numbers of platypuses in the area were decimated during the drought and will be impacted by the genetic separation. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/04/large-dams-may-threaten-survival-of-platypus-populations-research-finds>.

There are no cultural flow allocation for First Nations Peoples in either the Dungowan Creek or the Peel River and many sites of high cultural significance will be impacted.

I found the following statement "Ensure the indigenous community believe their concerns have been considered and addressed." very disturbing. It sounds as if the community is not being told the truth.

This project is very expensive 1.3 billion dollars and will cause an immense amount of harm to the environment for no gain. Dams are old technology which are not suitable in a world impacted by Climate Change and Australia is one of the countries most impacted by Climate Change. The EIS should not have used the outdated 2015 HunterH2O Report to select the dam as a water source and should have analysed other suitable alternatives such as the industrial waste water project in Tamworth, and non infrastructure methods of saving water such as water saving devices, more trees in streets and water wise parks, gardens and buildings.

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