

RE: Marulan South Limestone Mine SSD-7009

My name is Johanna Turner, my address is 1187 Caoura Rd Tallong NSW 2579. I 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. The maths doesn't work: if Boral were granted permission for this it would need to drain Tallong Dam 1.4 times over to even fill, let alone maintain, a new storage dam.
2. That would have devastating consequences for the entire Tallong and Marulan communities. Our properties and community rely on Tallong Dam and Barber's Creek for water usage and services like irrigation as well as essential emergency rural fire resources and other purposes such as water storage for drinking and domestic use. 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.
3. Even if Boral were to fill its proposed storage dam gradually, the difference in capacity means that filling and maintaining a 118ML storage dam from an 85ML (and often less in times of drought) resource would have devastating consequences for Tallong Dam. It would leave Tallong Dam irreparably damaged and would destroy it as a resource for the community.
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 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 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 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.

What needs to be done:

in view of the scale and environmental impact of this application a proper community consultation must be undertaken, taking into account a full environmental and usage assessment. The proposal should be notified to every affected landowner so that the public is properly aware of it and can have its say – this is the proper and transparent process.

The bird life and other wildlife in the area must be assessed before any further steps are taken. The dam is at very low levels at the moment and risks further degradation with this proposal.

In addition the dam offers a water source for our Fire Service which is increasingly important given the growing severity of bush fire hazard – going forward, this usage is critical to ensure safety of residents and property owners.

The dam is a precious resource that must be protected to service the needs of all of the community.

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

Sincerely

Johanna Turner