

Swati Sharma - Online Submission from Robert Burne of Environmental Scientist & Resident of Wickerslack lane, Googong (other)

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Date: 20/12/2010 9:19 AM
Subject: Online Submission from Robert Burne of Environmental Scientist & Resident of Wickerslack lane, Googong (other)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

#5

While generally supporting the proposed treatment system, I am concerned that same environmental implications have yet to be adequately assessed.

1. The project is intimately associated with the proposals for stormwater management and cannot really be assessed in isolation. greater attention should be given to the details of stormwater management as part of this proposal.
2. The geological and geomorphological assessments are simply literature reviews and no detailed surveys appear to have been done to identify special aspects that may have important implications for this proposal. This is especially true for the setting of Googong Creek, which is to be used as the discharge water-course.
3. Aquatic ecology assessment is extremely important to the impact of the discharges on the Queanbeyan River. No detailed monitoring of the river ecology appears to either have been undertaken and to be proposed for the future. Reference is made to the slightly degraded nature of the Queanbeyan River. This is likely due to the effects of the Googong Dam and the water management regime used for regulating discharge from the Dam. There is an urgent need to ensure that the discharge from Googong does not further degrade the Queanbeyan River Ecosystem, and also to ensure that the relative impacts of Googong Dam discharge and Googong Township discharge can be distinguished in the monitoring program.
4. There seems to be very little real data on surface and groundwater flows to underpin the hydrological modelling, which seems to be entirely computer based. Specifically there is no study of current discharges from Googong Creek, and the impacts of increased discharges through the Creek as a consequence of the Googong Township Development. Similarly the important groundwater/surface water interactions appear not to have been fully appreciated. One problem here is that the studies have been undertaken in a time of drought. The recent rains and flooding have underscored the importance of groundwater recharge and discharge from surface aquifers dominated by fracture porosity, and flash-flood regimes in both the creeks and the Queanbeyan River. These situations do not seem to have been adequately considered in the proposal.
5. Many residents of Wickerslack Lane both swim in the Queanbeyan River and use the River water for domestic water supply. It is essential that this development does not degrade the water quality of this reach of the Queanbeyan River. There is particular concern about the leakage of raw sewage into the river at times of high flow through the system.

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Submission for Job: #3119 Project Application for Stage 1

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/Index.pl?action=view__job&id=3119

Site: #1730 Googong Water Cycle Project

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