



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REPORT TABLED - INQUIRY INTO THE RATIONALE FOR, AND IMPACTS OF, NEW DAMS AND OTHER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS– PART 2**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**28 July 2021**

An Upper House inquiry into the rationale for, and impacts of, new dams and other water infrastructure has today released Part 2 of its final report. The inquiry was established in August 2020 to examine a number of new water infrastructure projects proposed by the NSW Government. This report examines the Dungowan Dam and Pipeline project, the Mole River Dam project, the Macquarie River re-regulating storage project, the Western Weirs project and the Menindee Lakes Water Savings project.

The Chair of the committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC said:

"There is no doubt that there is a need to ensure reliable water supply in regional NSW, especially following the severe impact of the recent droughts. However, the Government has not yet demonstrated that these projects are the best way of doing this'.

"The Committee heard from many witnesses about the negative ecological impacts of these projects. The Mole River Dam would have severe and irreversible consequences for native vegetation, fish and migratory birds as a result of the destruction of bushland, changes to river flow and the loss of floodplain habitats'.

"This inquiry consistently heard that these projects would have a significant negative impact on First Nations people. The importance of the Menindee Lakes to the Barkindji and other First Nations people was made abundantly clear to the committee, and it is evident that the proposed project would further disrupt their spiritual connection to their rivers and country by exacerbating the drying of the Lakes'.

"The Government is yet to show that these projects are the best way of addressing water security in the regions. Further, it was not clear how these investment decisions were made, and if other more efficient and more sustainable options had been explored'.

"The committee has made 7 findings and 9 recommendations, and ultimately recommended that the NSW Government address the significant concerns raised during the Inquiry in any independent planning processes assessing the relevant projects. However, while we strived for consensus on the recommendations and findings, there were a number which were not supported by some members. Hence this report includes a dissenting statement from myself as Chair," Ms Faehrmann said.

The report is available on the [committee's website](#).

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*For further information, please contact the office of Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, on (02) 9230 3771  
or 0487 247 960.*