

**Submission  
No 46**

## **INQUIRY INTO ADEQUACY OF WATER STORAGES IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Hunter Environment Lobby Inc

**Date received:** 6/08/2012

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# Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

PO Box 188  
EAST MAITLAND NSW 2323  
3 August 2012

RECEIVED

6 AUG 2012

The Director  
Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Madam/Sir

## **Inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW**

Please see below our amended submission to replace the original sent by Hunter Environment Lobby Inc dated 2 August 2012.

I refer to the call for submissions in relation to the Committee's inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW. The Hunter Environment Lobby wishes to make a submission to the inquiry.

The Hunter Environment Lobby is a regionally based group focusing on sustainable economic development, biodiversity conservation, transport and ecological sustainability. Over the last 20 years, the group has played an important role in working with government and the community to further important regional issues including having a representative on the Hunter River Management Committee established by the NSW Government.

Large water storage dams have very significant environmental impacts and in many cases overall costs outweigh the benefits. This has been demonstrated in reviews such as the World Dams Commission report.

The Hunter Environment Lobby is opposed to new water storage dams within the Hunter Region, because existing water storages are adequate for current and future needs. Furthermore, new dams will cause significant environmental damage and provide no long term economic and social benefits.

The Hunter River is already over allocated and has suffered significant environmental damage from the combined impacts of large water impoundments, increased usage by the power and mining industries and damage to rivers and groundwater systems caused by coal mining operations.

Hunter Environment Lobby supported the NSW Government decision to not approve the Tillegra Dam because of likely significant impacts on the Hunter Estuary system.

Because of the reduction in flows from the Hunter River, the Williams River provides the main inflows to the Hunter Estuary. The proposed Native Dog Creek Dam in the Tillegra precinct cannot be supported because it will have a similar impact of reducing the remaining freshwater flows to the estuary system.

This will have negative economic impacts on the estuary fishing and prawning industry and on the internationally significant wetlands and migratory bird habitats.

In the unlikely event that future shortfalls in water supply occur in the Hunter Region, then the cheapest and most effective way to respond through more effective demand management measures and more efficient water usage.

The group appreciates the opportunity to make a submission. For further queries concerning the submission please contact me on 4936 6260.

yours sincerely

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**Jan Davis (President)**