

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

- Dams have detrimental impact on rivers – both physical and biological, by altering the rivers natural flow thus effecting ecosystems, which can led to the extinction of many fish and other aquatic species, the disappearance of birds in floodplains, huge losses of forest, wetland and farmland, erosion of coastal deltas, and many other immitigable impacts.
- Dams emit green house gases – some in large quantities
- water conservation and demand management strategies are often more cost effective, socially, economically and environmentally
- Dams are old technology. Basix, recycling and other such sustainable initiatives will reduce the need for large water supply storages in the future
- Dams are contrary to the Water Management Act 2000, which places priority on the protection or restoration of water dependent ecosystems as well as protecting, preserving, maintaining or enhancing the important river flow dependent ecosystems of the catchment's water sources.
- permanent 'water wise' rules through out most Australian cities and surveys around the country have shown that low-level water restrictions have very high levels of community support, making dams unnecessary.
- With climate change there is an over reliance on rainfall dependent storage systems.
- Large infrastructures such as dams can inflict a large financial burden on water rates payers, as well as a debt burden on a State owned enterprise
- Community and stakeholder consultation has shown that consumers/industry's are prepared to accept water conservations measures and demand management in lieu of large dams
- Industries should be encouraged to use recycled water not potable water. Major water users should be encouraged to create and adhere to a water conservation plan.
- NSW State Plan (2010) - : "Protect our native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways, state-wide targets for natural resource management to improve biodiversity and native vegetation, sensitive riverine and coastal ecosystems, soil condition and socio-economic wellbeing."
- Future water supply planning should adopt the National Urban Water Planning Principles