

**Submission  
No 14**

## **INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION**

**Name:** Mr EJ (Tim) Minty

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General Purpose Standing Committee No.5

Email: [gpsc5@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gpsc5@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Re: The Upper House Committee inquiry into water augmentation in rural and regional NSW.

To the Honorable Secretary of the Standing Committee

The writer has over 60 years experience in Geotechnical Services in NSW as well as all States and Territories of the Australian Commonwealth.

Naturally additional dams would be of some help but only in areas with reliable rainfall. One such dam has already been designed and has not been constructed. I refer to the Upper Shoalhaven Dam in the vicinity of Braidwood.

The investigation into the holding cap proposed for the Shoalhaven Dam was fully investigated by the Sydney Water Board in the 1970's. The source of the materials for this proposed dam investigated by the Sydney Water Board Geologists at that time were found to be satisfactory. The problem that held up the construction is the potential leakage of arsenic from an old mine in the Upper reaches of the Shoalhaven. The sealing of this leakage zone may be possible by injection into the peripheral area of the mine and also by blocking the surface runoff towards the river.

The most useful immediate measures would be to review high water use by cotton growers and other industries. In addition curtailment of any Coal Seam Gas operations, which are extremely devastating to aquifers and water catchments.

Yours faithfully

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