Submission No 100

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Name: Name suppressed

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Like many Mudgee residents I have watched closely during the past exceptionally wet events and watched as Windermere Dam Fails to Fill. I began monitoring the flows from Rylstone end of the Cudgegong River and the dams main inflow since the first significant wet event in July when Burrendong was 10% full and Windermere was still 40%. Here is a sample of what I have seen 3rd Sept 2016 - inflow Rylstone 722 megs outflow Windermere 2113 megs. (Burrendong 90% + filling fast) Wind 40% 19th Sept 2016 – inflow Rylstone 440 meg outflow Windermere 634 megs. (Burrendong 115% + filling rapidly) Wind 48% 2nd Nov 2016 - inflow Rylstone 145 megs outflow Windermere 261 megs. (Burrendong 130% + flood control releases) Wind 50% 21st Oct 51% filled (Burrendong has been at 130% with ongoing high flow releases to date now is at 115%) We hear government slogans and environmental requests to be “WATER WISE” and “ WATER is a PRECIOUS RESOURCE”. There has also been some rhetoric re construction of new dams to help contain the Macquarie river flow. These will be of no benefit if the existing water management policies remain as they will not be allowed to fill. Burrendong Dam reached 130% and ongoing minor flooding events continue throughout the Macquarie Basin which makes the above slogans simply Government rhetoric makes little sense. Windermere Dam I believe forms part of the vital irrigation support system for the upper Macquarie Basin and instead of being 60-70% filled it languishes behind at 50% with ongoing releases that are slightly less than the Dams local catchment. The vital location of this Dam has been proven on many occasions where water has been used for environmental releases in the Macquarie marshes and support for lower Macquarie irrigators. Is there a problem with Windermere Dam which the local residents aren’t being told or is that long term water management and irrigation sustainability for the Cudgegong Basin doesn’t matter. It makes no sense to have water policies that do not allow the sources at the beginning of the flow to fill when weather conditions present themselves. This is especially true when other storages further down the valley are overflowing and causing down stream flooding. Any considered water management policy must take into account a rational approach to storage filling that will allow for both local and future demands. As it stands now Windermere dam is of little use should its contents be needed for future down stream augmentation.