

**INQUIRY INTO RATIONALE FOR, AND IMPACTS OF,  
NEW DAMS AND OTHER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN  
NSW**

**Name:** Mr Robert Caldwell

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Director Portfolio Committee 7 N.S.W. LC  
N.S.W. Parliament  
Macquarie St  
Sydney N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Committee Members,

The following is my submission to the Enquiry.

I find it hard to understand why we need another dam up here in the north as we get a summer rainfall and the water goes down the river, in this case the Mole River, to the irrigators at the time it is usually needed anyhow.

I understand that even some of the irrigators are questioning the need for these "critical" projects which put in doubt the necessity for these projects altogether. I believe this will be a huge and unnecessary cost to the taxpayer.

These dams are claimed to drought proof the country but the irrigators are allowed to use the water to grow more crops and then the dam is nearly empty when the drought starts in earnest. When the water is needed in time of drought it is already gone.

The ecology of the river is changed below the dam and totally destroyed in the dam itself. I feel there is enough destruction of native flora and fauna in the rivers already. We don't want any more.

For these reasons I cannot see why these works, the raising of Wyangala wall and the building of Dungowan and Mole River dams, should be claimed as critical. The classification "critical" just allows the government to fast track their projects and avoid some of the necessary studies and checks.

The irrigation industry has already used up billions of taxpayers funds and now we need better hospitals, communications, roads, etc. on the tablelands instead of sending all the wealth and quality of life to the communities down the river. Building a dam in the catchment of a river destroys the present rural income where the dam is situated and simply transfers the wealth down the river.

Apparently a large amount of water seems to be lost from the river system so better regulation and management would do more good than simply building more dams.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Caldwell.

Director Portfolio Committee 7 N.S.W. LC  
N.S.W. Parliament  
Macquarie St.  
Sydney  
N.S.W.



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