

**Submission
No 7**

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

Name: Miss Lucy Benjamin

Date Received: 15 September 2020

I oppose the construction of the new dams in the Murray-Darling Basin for a number of reasons.

1. As Business cases, Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) and hydrological reports have not been made available to the public I do not believe that the government has completed a full investigation into the environmental consequences of building the dam and that decisions are being rushed through without due process. Whether or not dams of this size are built will have lasting implications on local communities and it is not only naive but dangerous to think that we can act rashly in such matters. On this matter, at this stage there does not appear to be a feasibility study for Wyangala and Dungowan dams.

2. Numerous Aboriginal sites will be destroyed at many of the project locations. Not only was sovereignty of this land never ceded, but it is yet to be known if new dam projects comply with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984.

3. The new dam projects will stop up to 770 GL of water from flowing downstream to RAMSAR wetlands, lakes and floodplains that provide habitat for migratory birds, native fish, turtles, frogs and other endangered species. Not only does this threaten the specificity of Australia's wildlist it has clear consequences for the tourism industry and the many native flora and fauna that draw tourists to the country.

4. Construction of certain dams in the Murray-Darling Basin is potentially unlawful under the Federal Water Act 2007. Moreover, these projects will undermine the outcomes that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is trying to achieve.

I would like the government to conduct a full inquiry into the construction of the dams and to increase transparency and dialogue with members of the community.