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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am concerned that construction of dams in NSW is being considered without business cases, Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) and hydrological reports being publicly available.

For example, the Wyangala Dam EIS only considers the area project not the environmental impacts downstream. The Darling River Western weirs project has no EIS. That the Murray-Darling supports RAMSAR wetlands to protect critical ecosystems for endangered fish and migratory birds, and the food supply for millions of people is an aspect which I cannot see dealt with properly in evidence for the dam/s proposal.

Given that the Murray-Darling Basin is in critical condition, and that in recent years there has too little water flowing through the system to maintain the environment, communities or supply family owned agriculture, I would think it critical for any dam proposal to gain public confidence and licence. At this time, there is no such confidence or case for.