

**Submission
No 24**

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

Name: Mr Maurice Perry
Date Received: 18 September 2020

The Parliament Of NSW.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent, concerned citizen and retired schoolteacher I am deeply concerned about the proposals to further interfere with the flow of rivers in the Murray Darling. There is too little water flowing through the system to maintain the environment, communities or supply family owned agriculture. Dams will not restore flow, merely exercise a questionable control of the existing amounts of water available. Water saving practices and more equitable distribution are required but most importantly flows must be returned to the rivers at all cost.

The science on the catastrophic loss of flora and fauna species is beyond dispute and the restoration of these rivers is vital to halt the decline and begin the slow process of regeneration.

Dams are not the solution. They may serve the interests of producers growing in areas unsuited to the crops planted, but they will not serve the interests of all the communities that rely on the river flows, nor assist in the process of environmental restoration.

There are clearly issues with the dams interfering with Aboriginal heritage sites and sacred lands. The impacts of dams on down stream sites has not been fully researched.

The funds allocated to build dams would be better spent increasing river flows, restoring vegetation, educating farmers on water and irrigation practices, improving tourism in the areas that rely on clean healthy rivers, restoring fish populations, redistributing more fairly the remaining amounts of water, and moving farming that relies too heavily on irrigation to other areas.

Dams are not the way forward if we are genuine about the Murray Darling Basin being for all Australians now and the generations to come.