

**Submission
No 26**

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

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Building dams on rivers does not create water. It merely deprives downstream parts of the river of water that is needed to maintain river health and function. And potentially prevents movement of river fauna up and down the river.

There is no 'spare' water in any river system. Just because people see water flowing down the river and assume it is 'wasted' this is not the reality. Every drop of water in a river performs some essential function even (especially) in flood conditions. This is even more so in catchments like the Darling and Murrumbidgee with highly variable flows and reduced flow due to global warming. There is no spare water to be allocated to agriculture now and even less in the future.

In terms of the dams being proposed I understand that due process is not in place.
There are no EIS statements including full impact downriver of depriving the river of water
There are no full business cases or hydrological studies available for most of the projects so no opportunity for the public to assess the cost benefit of the projects.

It appears that on the available costing of at least one of the projects implies water cost many times the cost of water available in the system.

There is significant objections from river communities and indigenous groups to these projects. and the projects will destroy aboriginal heritage sites. So no social license.

Some work has already begun on at least one project before the completion of your inquiry.
These projects will affect Ramsar wetlands which are sacrosanct in global environmental terms.

Basically these projects are very likely to cost a lot of money to permanently destroy the rivers and should not be approved.