

**Submission
No 36**

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

Name: Ms Marie Ngai-King

Date Received: 20 September 2020

Dear Committee Members

I'm a city dweller who loves this country's wide open spaces and its unique flora and fauna. I am deeply opposed to the new dams construction project across the Murray-Darling region.

Firstly, the speed at which the this project is being rushed through is indeed alarming.

Business and Environmental Impact studies have yet to be made public. It is truly alarming that Water NSW and the NSW Government have ignored the voices and concerns of so many people, - Indigenous people, local people, whole communities, downstream graziers, small irrigators amongst them, in their rush to get this ambitious dams project pushed through.

Of particular concern to me is the impact to the environment. The Ramsar listed Macquarie marshes are a treasure of the natural world. Already, this unique wetlands has been affected by lessened natural water flows since the construction of the Burrendong Dam in 1967 when more and more water was allocated to irrigation. These wetlands provide nesting, foraging and breeding grounds for thousands of migratory birds from as far away as Russia and parts of Asia. It is a whole eco system. This is a country's wealth. It is unique and nothing further should be done to compromise its health by taking away any more of the waters which rightfully belong to this marvel of nature and all the creatures which depend on it for their survival. This applies to all wetlands, lakes and floodplains in the Murray-Darling that will be devastated by the building of these dams and weirs. Ancient river red gums will be lost, gone forever. Critical whole ecosystems will be destroyed. Habitat for our native birds, fish, animals, frogs, insects and other invertebrates will be devastated. Lost, gone forever.

It is hoped that the voices of so many who have raised their concerns will be taken on board and listened to. It is hoped that Aboriginal people will be enabled to play a much greater part in the management and protection of rivers and country. They have the knowledge and the wisdom. We would do well to listen to them .

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely
Marie Ngai-King