

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

**Organisation:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 21 September 2020

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Partially  
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Our organization has been a part of the Aboriginal Focus Group for the Mole River Dam since its inception. I have also been responsible for providing aboriginal Sites officers to walk /work with their archeologist's on finding and assessing sites of cultural significance on the proposed site around the property "Ringtree" and the nearby vicinity.

To date I am astounded with the amount of significant sites that are in the area and have been uncovered whilst these works are being undertaken.

The area for the proposed dam, is one that is highly significant with at least one burial site, numerous tool sites, more recently a huge campsite area has been uncovered with clay balls used under fires for earth ovens, which are amazing! There are also many sites of rock engravings that were used as tool sharpening areas, an Aboriginal reserve, and potential rock shelters.

There are also old arsenic mines that may leach into the water supply in the proposed area as well. There is also a heap of food and medicine trees as well as fish in abundance, in particular a purple spotted gudgeon habitat.

The gudgeon are a ground dwelling threatened species that has recently been discovered in good numbers, where the dam wall is proposed to be installed.

I have also sighted a map of the Ngarabal tribe of the area and its walking track is on the area of the Mole River that is proposed for the dam, and that will destroy all evidence of it.

I am requesting that due to the fact that so much of our Aboriginal Cultural heritage will be destroyed, that parliament please consider putting a stop to the proposed dam. We will never ever have access to any of this cultural heritage if the Mole River Dam goes ahead. I am a person who resides in Tenterfield, was born here, and lived my life here as well. I was taught everything I know from a cultural point of view on the banks of the Mole River, as well as on the creeks between Tenterfield to the Macintyre in Boggabilla. Endangering this iconic and culturally significant river system for profit is not a wise decision in anyones eyes.

EMM Consulting is looking at interment of the Aboriginal remains on the site and having his remains removed from its resting place. That in itself, we feel, is highly disrespectful to the spirit of Jacky and should not be considered for removal, or put into a watery grave.

We realise that the dam will benefit farmers downstream eventually but please consider better ecological ways of doing this rather than damming an area of such cultural and special significance, not only to Aboriginal people ,but the whole population as well.

Options could be Turkey Nest dams that could be put on farms to feed their farming needs, instead of ruining a whole river system by damming it.

I do hope that your members will consider my request and thank you