

**Submission  
No 62**

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

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My name is Susan Nichol, and I live on the amazing Surf Coast in Victoria with my partner and young child. We are so fortunate to live in a remarkable part of Australia and also are able to spend much of our time in the Alpine area near Mount Hotham. We are far away from the immediate impacts of any new dam projects, but the dreadful state of the Murray-Darling Basin has prompted me to write this submission. I am astounded at the lack of accountability for its current state and I cannot believe that the NSW government is considering new dams in this area which will certainly have further negative impacts on an incredibly fragile ecosystem.

New projects need to be carefully considered and to date that has not happened. Reports and impact studies are not complete and consideration for downstream impacts is amazingly not even considered. The lack of water flowing downstream to wetlands, lakes and other habitats will have dire impacts on animals and plants which are already struggling under extreme weather events and a changing climate.

The lack of information for new dams is disappointing and it is difficult to see how this is anything other than an intention to deceive the Australian people so as to rush these dam projects to completion. Full transparency and legitimate consultation and compromise, importantly to indigenous groups and environmental organisations, is imperative if the Murray-Darling Basin is to continue to survive and provide for communities, individuals and ecosystems.