

**Submission
No 68**

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

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As a long-term resident of the Williams Valley NSW we are all too aware of the potential damage that dams can do to healthy river systems and small, regional communities. I oppose the fast tracking of these dam projects by the NSW government.

Political processes should not determine the need or otherwise for large, expensive and environmentally altering infrastructure like dams. Science and rational whole of government planning processes using multi-factorial decision management systems. These decisions should not be rushed under any circumstances but especially to suit political time lines. And clearly all thorough feasibility studies, business cases, environmental impact studies and other technical reports should be complete and made available for public consultation prior to any approvals or commencement of works. To do otherwise is a travesty.

Town water (for potable supply) must be given the highest level of security and reliability, yet need not be achieved by building expensive, large dams that are climate dependant. Recycling must be looked at and pursued (as is done in many large cities around the world, http://www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/Publications/Fact_Sheets/Water_Recycling_Fact_Sheet/AWA_MBRR/Publications/Fact_Sheets/Water_Recycling_Fact_Sheet.aspx).

Further, the damage to the ecology of the existing rivers, wetlands (RAMSAR or not) and downstream systems should not be tolerated as we need to improve our footprint on this Earth.

Please accept this submission as a request for the NSW Upper House Enquiry to ensure that the principles of legality, transparency, justification, cost effectiveness, respect for Aboriginal culture and rights, and environmental protection are upheld.