

**Submission  
No 81**

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

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## Dungowan Dam

This dam has been hastily done for water security and political reasons. Upgrading the dam which is owned by Tamworth Regional Council and supplies 6.3GL to the town has been rejected twice in the past as it was not financially viable. Chaffey dam was built in 1976 with 62000GL and upgraded in 2016 adding another 38500GL .Unfortunately Chaffey despite filling was nearly empty by 2019 due to gross mismanagement from WaterNSW and the Murray Darling Basin Authority .They used outdated figures which did not account for the drought and overallocated the water-current allowances require the dam to be used fully every 2 years. Without the necessary inflow (March2018 to March 2020) there was only 6GL it has left the community in dire straits .We have been unable to use water outside for 17 months.

I am concerned a new dam 3.5km downstream from the current one will have a major detrimental effect on the environment and river health for little benefit to the community and a large effect on our water rates .Native fish will lose population movement up and down stream .We also have platypus,turtles,frogs, waterbirds dependant on our waterways .An area of critically endangered Box Gum Woodland will be lost with construction and inundation by the new dam.

A new dam is short-term gain for longterm pain. Dungowan Creek does not have a large catchment area and a new dam would be a waste of public money .Funds would be better spent looking at recycling and water tanks on every property. This is guaranteed water whereas dam water is inconsistent due to variable rainfall .

I also hold concerns with EMM doing the EIS as it appears most of their work has been for large mining firms ,quarries and roads-environmental vandals that suppress the unfavorable evidence  
I am not in favour of the dam going ahead however we do need the pipe line between Dungowan and Calala upgraded as it is nearly 70 years old.