

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Wyangala Dam wall extension will enable harvesting more water upstream from the Lachlan catchment. Without an environmental impact study, the proposal may have adverse effects on the environment below the dam. The Lower Lachlan floodplain is already suffering from over commitment of the limited resource (water) and demands are obviously increasing with a changing industry (permanent plantations) due to the separation of land and water.

Increasing the dam wall does not increase rainfall. It only captures more water in a wet season storing the water for future years to come. This water is taken away from the environment below and will be detrimental to the livelihood of species that rely on the wetting events. The problem for the Lower Lachlan floodplain is these wet seasons (flooding) provide a balanced ecological system. The floodplain enables wetland bird breeding events (Ibis rookery). Modelling would show that these events will be further removed from the system.

Flood plain harvesting needs to be properly monitored and licenced as we have seen instances where this is occurring in the Lachlan Catchment system and no authority is prepared to address the problem. Water savings can be achieved by other means. For instance, The Mirrool Creek system flows into the Lower Lachlan catchment. Water is being harvested into Barren Box Swamp (now call Storage by Murrumbidgee Irrigation) and sold to adjacent irrigators without any consideration of the environment below.

Being a 5th generation farmer living on the Lower Lachlan I have seen and learnt a lot about the river and creek system. I believe that there has not been enough research and study into the environmental, social and economic impacts that this dam wall extension will have the system below.